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OPINION METER
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INSIDE



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isleSMILE is the first T-shirt company that seeks to help visitors learn useful Chamorro phrases.

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Next Round

"American Idol" finalists Lil Rounds and Anoop Desai aren't closer to becoming household names.

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Kilili seeks more funds for watershed, Garapan market. **PAGE 3**

Minimum wage study underway

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Government Accountability Office has recently begun work on preparing the minimum wage study that will look at the impact of past and future wage increases in the CNMI and American Samoa.

The GAO is currently in the design phase and establishing the methodology and determining what data is needed, said Emil E Friberg Jr. of GAO.

"Currently, we are having initial meetings with relevant federal agencies and the two island governments," he said in an e-mail.

See **WAGE** on Page 4



TRADITIONAL NAVIGATION

One of the traditional navigators from Satalwal cleans up the canoe they used to sail for eight days from the outer island of Yap to the CNMI without the aid of modern navigational equipment. Two canoes, which reached the waters off Managaha on April 17, sailed to the Susupe Beach yesterday in time for the opening of the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival. Inset shows a child enjoying a moment of solitude on one of two canoes.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

**PSS EXPECTS
TO OWE FUND
\$11M IN FY09**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System expects to owe the Retirement Fund \$11 million in employer contributions by the end of the current fiscal year, according to PSS financial consultant Ed Tenorio.

PSS' current unfunded liability to
See **PSS** on Page 4

AP POLL:
Americans high
on Obama and
direction of US

By RON FOURNIER and TREVOR TOMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the first time in years, more Americans than not say the country is headed in the right direction, a sign that Barack Obama has used the first 100 days of his presidency

See **AMERICANS** on Page 4



President Barack Obama waves as he arrives on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington as he returns from a trip to Iowa, Wednesday, April 22, 2009.

\$20,000 paid to lobby firm in first quarter of 2009

CNMI lobbying expenses on the decline between 1998 and 2008

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration paid \$20,000 to Washington, D.C.-based International

Government Relations Group to lobby the U.S. Congress for the CNMI's "economic development" during the first quarter of 2009, federal records show.

IGRG electronically filed the lobbying

report with the U.S. Congress on April 20, which was the due date for lobbying reports covering the first quarter of 2009.

The CNMI government also paid

See **LOBBY** on Page 4

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Local

Lawyers hold closing arguments in Villagomez case

Jury deliberations expected to start today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The prosecution and defense lawyers spent the whole day yesterday for closing arguments in the ongoing jury trial of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom at 5:15pm yesterday, Guam attorney David J. Lujan, counsel for Villagomez, was still conducting his closing arguments.

The 12 jurors are expected to begin their deliberations to-

day, Friday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley discussed the documents and witnesses' testimonies relating to six Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s transactions to purchase thousands of gallons of a descaling chemical called Rydlyme.

O'Malley explained how each transaction began and the involvement of Villagomez and the Santos couple in the deals.

The transactions involved the purchase of 375 gallons of Rydlyme worth \$13,125 in April 1998; the payment of \$70,000

for 1,000 gallons of Rydlyme each for Tinian and Rota in June 1998; the payment of \$105,000 for 1,000 gallons each for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in September 1998; the purchase of 1,400 gallons of Rydlyme worth \$49,000 for Saipan in June 1999; the purchase of

1,400 gallons of Rydlyme worth \$49,000 in January 2000; and the \$120,000 deal for 3,300 gallons of Rydlyme.

O'Malley said witnesses tes-

tified that only small quantities of Rydlyme were used, but Villagomez kept ordering more of the chemical.

He said the chemical was not used for its intended purpose—to clean the cooling system of CUC's power engines—but was instead used to clean tools, cement floors, and toilets.

O'Malley cited the testimony of former CUC auditor Soc Nilo Villanueva, who found multiple violations of ethical and procurement regulations.



Villagomez

The prosecutor said that after the initial five transactions, things quieted down because Villagomez was out of CUC as he was elected congressman. But when Villagomez was elected lieutenant governor in 2006, O'Malley said, Gov. Benigno Fitial appointed him to run CUC and thus the 2007 transaction began.

O'Malley said among a proof of dishonesty or cheating was that Villagomez ordered for Rydlyme even though he is not a mechanic but a CUC executive director, in violation of CUC regulations.

He said James Santos ordered 496 gallons of Rydlyme more than a month before the purchase order was even issued and the price markup was 377 percent.

On the 2007 deal, the Santos couple spent only \$30,676 to buy the chemical, giving them an instant \$90,000 profit when they sold it to CUC, according to the prosecutor. The transactions, O'Malley said, were designed to maximize profit for the Santos couple.

The payments, he said, were made over the other vendors, who were waiting for up to a year to get paid.

The big thing in this case is the conflict of interest, O'Malley said. Joaquina Santos and James Santos is Villagomez's sister and brother-in-law respectively.

He said Villagomez signed the purchase orders and checks despite a clear conflict of interest and he was also pushing for the contract.

Lujan, counsel for Villagomez, discredited the government's key witnesses—former CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero, Villanueva, and CUC procurement manager Manny Sablan.

Lujan said O'Malley called Guerrero a puppet of Villagomez, but that the prosecutor should ask himself how they control Guerrero, who signed a plea agreement and entered a guilty plea.

Lujan said O'Malley mentioned dishonesty and cheating, but "who pulled the string of Guerrero, the puppet?"

The defense lawyer said Guerrero admitted in his testimony that there was a hammer over his head.

Guerrero had testified that he approved the sole-source contract for the 2007 transaction because he was in an environment of pressure and did not want to disappoint the lieutenant governor.

O'Malley said after Joaquina Santos got the \$50,000 payment, she deposited the amount into the account of her company, Blue Pacific, on Dec. 6, 2007. The following day, James Santos signed a \$15,000 check and made it payable to Villagomez. On the same day, Dec. 7, Villagomez deposited the \$15,000 check into his personal account,

according to the prosecutor.

Lujan said the government is exaggerating in this case just like Sablan and Villanueva.

Lujan went all over the six transactions and stated there was absolutely nothing wrong with those deals. He questioned why many persons, including former acting Power Division managers Jose S. Demapan and Almondo Santos, whose names were all over the transactions, were not called to the witness stand.

He said there is no absolutely no evidence that Villagomez breached the contracts.

Lujan went over the audit report of Villanueva and stated that the witness was exaggerating. He said Villanueva, like Sablan and O'Malley, was prone to exaggeration.

Victorino Torres, counsel for James Santos, said there was no plan to commit a crime for any of the 1998 to 2000 transactions.

Torres said there was no evidence that James Santos used his position as then Commerce Secretary in order for Blue Pacific to get the contract.

Torres also cited some apparent inconsistencies in the testimony of the government's key witnesses. Torres asked why the government did not call to the witness stand Almondo Santos, who asked for an increase in the amount of Rydlyme. Torres said the price markup is not illegal and that the training for Rydlyme is evidence of good faith.

He said William Powell of Rydlyme, who came to Saipan for training, was paid by James Santos for his stay on the island. Torres said Powell even went to Rota to check the power engines and promote Rydlyme, which is evidence of good faith.

On the bribery issue, Torres said the money to repair the boat was not bribery.

"You don't bribe your brother or family member," he said.

Ramon Quichocho, counsel for Joaquina Santos, said the 1998 to 2000 and the 2007 transactions were all proper.

Quichocho noted that some witnesses gave conflicting or inaccurate information. He said there was no secret in the deals as everything was in the open.

He said the government's star witness—Villanueva—turned out to be the weakest link.

The defense lawyer said Villanueva gathered selected pieces of information to support his report. "Making a lot of money is not a crime," Quichocho said.

Quichocho said the U.S. government spent a total of \$8,915 for a witness whose testimony was subsequently stricken by the court.

With respect to Guerrero, Quichocho said he believes he is a good person, but only got the wrong legal advice.

"How can entering into a contract to deliver a product in exchange for payment be a crime?" Quichocho asked.

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Fitial won't be present at Villagomez verdict

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi.eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial yesterday said he would not be present in the U.S. District Court to find out if the CNMI's second-in-command will be found guilty of bribery, theft, conspiracy to de-

fraud, and wire fraud charges.

"I think if I show up there I may cause some discomfort, you know," Fitial said at a news briefing yesterday. "I prefer staying here. I'm hoping I would be helping more if I were to stay here and man the shop. Like I said, I still hope the lie-

tenant governor gets out of the problem he has."

He added that he has all the respect for the law and will let it take its course.

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, along with his sister Joaquina Santos, and brother-in-law, former Commerce Secretary James

Santos, are on trial for allegedly bilking the CNMI government out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless purchases of Rydlyme, a cleaning and de-scaling chemical, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Jury deliberation is expected to begin today.

Throughout the trial, Villagomez has remained in his role as lieutenant governor, although he has not been reporting to the office because he has been in court every day.

Fitial has not attended the trial, but he said he receives daily updates.

Asked what he will do if Villagomez is convicted, the governor said he would seek

legal advice.

"I would be consulting with the attorney general if ever I need to, but I'm focused on current events, keeping the government afloat," he said.

According to Article III Section 3 of the Constitution, whenever the office of lieutenant governor is vacant, the governor must appoint a successor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

AT AGRICULTURE MEMBERS' DAY

Kilili seeks more funding for CREES, Kagman watershed, Garapan market

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee opened its hearing room yesterday to members of Congress with priority projects in need of funding and CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan and Guam Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo were the very first to sit down at the witness table and make their pitch for agriculture projects in the Marianas.

Together the two explained to subcommittee chair Rosa de Lauro (D-CT) the importance of the land grant colleges in the insular areas to promote agriculture. Speaking on behalf of American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico as well as Guam and the Northern Marianas, they asked for funding for new facilities and equipment and also for the replacement of existing laboratories and other infrastructure that is in disrepair or outdated.

"Materials can corrode more

quickly and easily under harsh conditions" on the islands, they explained to the subcommittee.

For the Northern Marianas' land grant college NMC and its Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service program, Sablan identified the need to upgrade aquaculture research and demonstration facilities. He also asked for funding for a community kitchen where farmers could add value to their crops by processing and packaging them for market. The projects would cost \$850,000.

In addition, the Northern Marianas congressman asked for funds to help with irrigation for growers on the Kagman Peninsula and to build a public market in Garapan, where farmers and fishermen and other local entrepreneurs could sell their products to locals and tourists.

"Since 1993—almost 16 years—the Natural Resources Conservation Services has been working on the Kagman Water-

shed Project," Sablan told the subcommittee.

Last week Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack chose Kagman as one of just 53 projects nationwide for funding at his discretion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Vilsack awarded \$4.15 million.

But Kilili wants an additional \$2.3 million.

"This project has dragged on for years, moving by fits and starts as funds are available. It's time to finish what the federal government began in 1993. The money I am requesting will allow the project to move forward with construction of the 70 million gallon reservoir, a sediment basin, pumps, and transfer pipelines—finally getting water to the farmers who need it."

Sablan also went to bat for the Garapan public market, a project he said is "shovel ready" and long overdue. He asked the subcommittee for \$2.25 million.

"We have many fishermen

and farmers who need a permanent facility with running water and electricity, where they can clean, package, display, and sell fresh, local foods to the public."

Sablan's proposals touched on every facet of developing an agricultural economy from research in crops and processing, to the irrigation of fields, to bringing the products to market.

Chairman de Lauro seemed particularly interested in what the newest member of Congress had to say about his district. "I don't know much about your islands," she told Sablan.

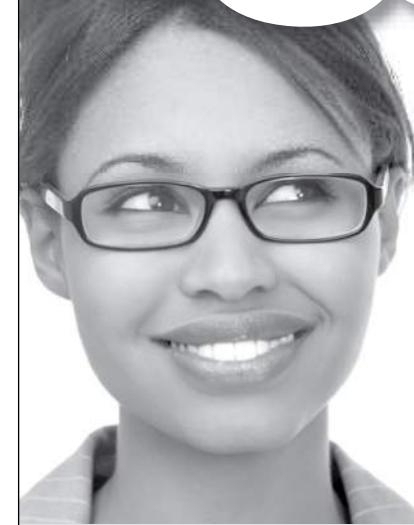
He explained the traditional role of farming in Marianas culture and the importance of agriculture in the modern economy of the islands, as well. "There is subsistence farming and a growing export market, especially with respect to specialty crops."

Sablan thanked de Lauro for hosting the Members' Day—a first for the subcommittee. (PR)

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For reservations, please call The Palms on Paupau Beach at 322-3311

Parts of island experience two-hour outage

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi.eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Residents in some parts of the island might have been woken up in the middle of the night due to a two-hour emergency power outage early yesterday morning.

From 2am to 4am, feeders in Chalan

Kanoa, Dandan, Fina Sisu, San Jose and Susupe were turned off. Lower Base, Puerto Rico, Garapan, China Town and Gualo Rai were affected by the emergency outage.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. released a notice Wednesday night announcing the outage would occur yesterday morning.

In the announcement, CUC said that during an inspection of the busbar earlier Wednesday, technicians had identified a failed spout.

"It was determined at that time that the failed spout required to be repaired immediately to ensure that it does not affect the power supply," the notice said.

AMERICANS

From Page 1

to lift the public's mood and inspire hopes for a brighter future.

Intensely worried about their personal finances and medical expenses, Americans nonetheless appear realistic about the time Obama might need to turn things around, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll. It shows most Americans consider their new president to be a strong, ethical and empathetic leader who is working to change Washington.

Nobody knows how long the honeymoon will last, but Obama has clearly transformed the yes-we-can spirit of his candidacy into a tool of governance. His ability to inspire confidence—Obama's second book is titled "The Audacity of Hope"—has thus far buffered the president against the harsh political realities of two wars, a global economic meltdown and countless domestic challenges.

"He presents a very positive outlook," said Cheryl Wetherington, 35, an independent voter who runs a chocolate shop in Gardner, Kan. "He's very well-spoken and very vocal about what direction should be taken."

Other AP-GfK findings could signal trouble for Obama:

"While there is evidence that people feel more optimistic about the economy, 65 percent said it's difficult for them and their families to get ahead. More than one-third know of a family member who recently lost a job."

■ More than 90 percent of Americans consider the economy an important issue, the highest ever in AP polling.

■ Nearly 80 percent believe that the rising federal debt will hurt future generations, and Obama is getting mixed reviews at best for his handling of the issue.

And yet, the percentage of Americans saying the country is headed in the right direction rose to 48 percent, up from 40 percent in February. Forty-four percent say the nation is on the wrong track.

Not since January 2004, shortly after the capture of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, has an AP survey found more "right direction" than "wrong direction" respondents. The burst of optimism didn't last long in 2004.

And it doesn't happen much.

Other than that blip five years ago, pessimism has trumped optimism in media polls since shortly after the invasion of Iraq in the spring of 2003.

The "right track" number topped "wrong direction" for a few months after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, according to non-AP media polls, and for several months later in the Clinton administration.

So far, Obama has defied the odds by producing a sustained trend toward optimism. It began with his election.

In October 2008, just 17 percent said the country was headed in the right direction. After his victory, that jumped to 36 percent. It dipped a bit in December but returned to 35 percent around the time of his inauguration and has headed upward since.

laws to the CNMI.

There's no record of CNMI lobbying spending in 1999.

Federal records show that the CNMI spent \$960,000 in 1998 to pay for the lobbying services of Preston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds; zero in 1999; \$500,000 in 2000 for Kirkpatrick & Lockhart; \$1.1 million to Greenberg Traurig in 2001; \$680,000 in 2002 to Greenberg Traurig and National Group; and \$260,000 in 2003 paid to Daryl Owen Associates, PodestaMattoon, and Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt.

In 2004, the CNMI government paid \$560,000 to Beirne, James P., Cassidy & Associates, Daryl Owen Associates, PodestaMattoon, and Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt.

In 2008, the CNMI government

Obama is keenly aware that his political prospects are directly linked to such numbers. If at the end of his term the public is no more assured that Washington is competent and accountable and that the nation is at least on the right track, his re-election prospects will be doubtful.

Obama himself has conceded as much.

"I will be held accountable," he said a few weeks into his presidency. "You know, I've got four years. ... If I don't have this done in three years, then there's going to be a one-term proposition."

The AP-GfK poll suggests that 64 percent of the public approves of Obama's job performance, down just slightly from 67 percent in February. President George W. Bush's approval ratings hovered in the high 50s after his first 100 days in office.

But Obama has become a polarizing figure, with just 24 percent of Republicans approving of his performance—down from 33 percent in February. Obama campaigned on a promise to end the party-first mind-set that breeds gridlock in Washington.

Most Americans say it's too soon to tell whether he's delivered on his promise to change Washington. But twice as many say Obama is living up to his promises as those who say he's not (30 percent to 15 percent).

Worries about losing their jobs, facing major medical expenses, seeing investments dive and paying their bills remain high among Americans, the poll shows, just slightly lower than two

months ago.

In 2005, \$440,000 was paid to Beirne, James P., Daryl Owen Associates, PodestaMattoon, Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, and Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt.

The CNMI government spent much less in lobby contracts in 2006, paying \$100,000 to Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg.

The amount went up again in 2007 with a \$220,000 contract to Oldaker, Biden & Belair, and Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg.

In 2008, the CNMI government spent \$60,000. Of this amount, \$20,000 went to Fleishman-Hillard Inc., and \$40,000 to International Government Relations Group.

LOBBY

From Page 1

IGR \$20,000 each during the fourth, third and second quarters of 2008. The four quarter 2008 payment was filed on Jan. 16, 2009.

Data from the Center for Responsive Politics showed that the CNMI's spending for lobbyists in Washington, D.C. has declined between 1998 and 2008, reaching its peak in 2001 when the government paid \$1.1 million to Greenberg Traurig, the firm of disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff at the time. Abramoff helped Rep. Tom DeLay craft legislation blocking federal immigration and minimum wage labor

WAGE

From Page 1

The GAO report should include:

■ The rates of employment and living standards of workers, with full consideration of the other factors that impact rates of employment and the living standards of workers such as inflation in the cost of food, energy, and other commodities; and

■ Estimate the impact of any further wage increases on rates of employment and living standards of workers

in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, with full consideration of the other factors that may impact the rates of employment and living standards of workers, including assessing how the profitability of major private sector firms may be impacted by wage increases in comparison to other factors such as energy costs and value of tax benefits.

The study is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The original version of the bill said Congress would receive the report be-

tween March 15 and April 15, 2009, but the conference bill signed into law extended the deadline for Congress to receive the report to April 15, 2010, which means another 50-cent increase will occur in May this year. This will push the CNMI's minimum wage to \$4.55 per hour.

By 2015, the minimum wage in the CNMI will increase to the federal level of \$7.25 per hour.

Gov. Benigno Fitial lauded the inclusion of the language in the original version of the bill.

"These reports will alert members

Last week, the island of Saipan experienced an unexpected outage lasting two hours. CUC officials blamed operator error and a lack of reserve.

For years the island has been on a rotating load shedding schedule. Last July and August the power crisis reached a crescendo when some areas went without power for 12 hours at a time.

As CUC repairs and brings in more engines online, the utility company works to conserve fuel.

The utility company is working to restore several engines at Power Plant 1, in order to be ready for September, when the one-year contract with Aggreko ends.

The Aggreko engines have been providing 15 megawatts of power to the island since Sept. 11, virtually halting the blackouts and rotating brownouts that had plagued the island. CUC recently brought back online engines 7 and 3 at Power Plant 1 after months of rehabilitation.

higher ethical standards than the Bush administration.

Most also say he's changing things about the right amount and at the right speed. But nearly a third say he's trying to change too many things too quickly.

Obama is not the first president who sought to tap the deep well of American optimism—the never-say-die spirit that Americans like to see in themselves.

Even as he briefly closed the nation's banks, Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke in the first days of his presidency of the "confidence and courage" needed to fix the U.S. economy. "Together we cannot fail," he declared.

general fund.

The law also allows 1 percent of the Public Auditor fee to be used for textbooks, which amounts to \$330,000.

Among the biggest anticipated PSS expenditures this fiscal year is power and utilities consumption, which is projected to reach \$3 million by the end of the fiscal year.

"Hopefully we can cut this amount by half," Tenorio said, adding that PSS is looking at implementing solar and renewable energy in schools to reduce consumption.

Saipan Southern High School was the first school to use renewable energy early this year.

"We're looking at the figure at SSHS. If they spent \$70,000 on utilities and they saved \$3,000 upon using the renewable energy...we can do the math for our other schools," Tenorio told the board.

He disclosed that some \$9 million in stimulus funds will also be added to the PSS budget this fiscal year.

"There's \$9 million from stimulus we can spend for purposes like air conditioning, new classrooms, salary of teachers, and renovations of buildings," Tenorio said.

Overall, he added, PSS is on target in FY 2009—due in large part to the stimulus assistance from the federal government.

"Once we receive the go-ahead to use the stimulus money, we will start the planning. Overall, PSS is on target this fiscal year," he said.

Tenorio said the stimulus money is good for three years, or until 2012.

The completion of the PSS Financial Master Plan, he said, is vital in assessing PSS priorities.

try and other businesses throughout the CNMI can regain some economic footing in this very challenging economic environment," he added.

When the ARRA was signed into law with the new 2010 date, Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the administration was disappointed.

"We are disappointed that the deadline for the minimum wage study was pushed back to 2010. This is a critical matter that should be addressed immediately because of the potential economic harm to the CNMI," Reyes said.

HANMI: Plumeria closure cuts hotel room numbers

March occupancy up at 69.42 percent

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Plumeria Resort's closure in October dragged down the number of rooms available in the CNMI, according to the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, which reported a slight increase in occupancy at 69.42 percent in March.

The Achugao hotel's closure brings the number of HANMI members to 13.

In a statement yesterday, HANMI said its 13 members sold 50,658 of 85,250 available room nights, compared to 51,344 of 87,978 room night sold in March 2008.

"The decline in available room nights is due in part to the

closure of Plumeria Resort in 2008," said HANMI, which was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the CNMI's hospitality industry.

Although the occupancy rate is up, the average room rate in March 2009 declined to \$90.55 from \$96.55 in March 2008.

HANMI vice chair Nick Nishikawa said most of the hotels de-

pend on wholesalers and agents.

"Due to the global economic situation, travel trends, and heavy competition among resort destinations, the travel agents' tour package prices have been decreased. Right now it's a buyer's market, but our industry focus remains to offer quality customer service to support growth when the economy re-

covers," said Nishikawa.

The number of HANMI employees is also down slightly by 32 percent—or from 1,931 in the beginning of the year to 1,899.

The reduction reflects losses largely of 26 resident employees, and the rest are contract employees.

Despite the slight increase in occupancy in March, year to date levels are still far below previous years' due to a slowdown in arrivals.

In addition, the next round of 50-cent minimum wage increase in May is seen to further hurt hotels, which may be forced to lay off employees, cut benefits, or reduce work hours.

HANMI earlier said that some 68 percent or 1,802 of the total 2,636 employees of hotels will be affected by the minimum wage hike.

From the current \$4.05 an hour, the CNMI's minimum wage will increase to \$4.55 an hour in May.

Ex-Rep. Ada sues Fund for cut in benefits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former congressman Martin B. Ada sued the NMI Retirement Fund's board of trustees and its two officers yesterday for allegedly improperly reducing his retirement benefits.

Besides the board, Ada also sued board chair Juan T. Guerrero and Fund administrator Mark Aguon for allegedly violating his rights under the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions and for conversion.

Ada, through counsel George L. Hasselback, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to

order the defendants to pay him damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Hasselback stated in the complaint that Ada was a CNMI government employee from 1978 to 1997, when he took advantage of an "early out" retirement program.

Hasselback said Ada then began to receive his retirement benefits.

In June 2000, Ada became a House representative.

The lawyer said that, for this period of time, Ada's retirement benefits ceased, but he began to accrue more time applicable to his eventual retirement.

Also, Hasselback said, Ada began to accrue additional benefits applicable to his eventual retirement because of his position as an elected legislator.

In 2008, Hasselback said, Ada again retired and at that point he had accrued over 25 years of time for which he was

and is, due retirement benefits.

The lawyer said Fund administrator Aguon wrote Ada on Feb. 29, 2008, authorizing the retirement benefits that Ada would begin to receive from the Fund.

Upon receiving this letter, Ada discovered that his retirement benefits were much lower than he was due, Hasselback said.

selback said.

"The benefits that Mr. Ada was to receive did not take into account his time spent as an elected legislator and also did not take into account a statutory increase in retirement benefits for time spent as an elected legislator," he noted.

Ada and his counsel contacted Aguon, requesting an expla-

nation for the insufficiency in Ada's retirement benefits.

"To date, plaintiff has not been scheduled any appearance before the board or its designated hearing officer for a hearing to address his complaints regarding the improper reduction in the amount of his retirement benefits," Hasselback said.

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311-page highway master plan updates 1997 data

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By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new Comprehensive Highway Master Plan that updates the 1997 plan has been completed, according to Department of Public Works.

Joseph M. Inos Jr., director of DPW's Technical Services Division, said the highway master plan is updated every 10 years.

He said just like the CNMI Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2009-2011 that didn't receive any comment from Saipan, the master plan also received lukewarm response when they held a scoping meeting on Saipan in 2006 with only one member of the public showing up. He said DPW received comments on the master plan from Rota and Tinian during the scoping meetings.

Inos said the public can download a copy of the 311-page master plan at http://www.4shared.com/get/97350087/93db45a5/CNMI_CHMP033109.html.

The main objective of the document, finalized in March



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Joseph M. Inos Jr., director of DPW's Technical Services Division, shows off the new Comprehensive Highway Master Plan.

2008, is to update the previous Comprehensive Highway Master Plan that was published in 1997.

It provides updated traffic data, and forecasts for future year conditions for Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Roadway segments and intersections were

analyzed to estimate traffic capacity and levels of service.

The master plan reassesses previous accident data and provides the status of the recommended improvements from the earlier master plan.

"Based on public scoping meetings and interviews and

discussions with DPW and other CNMI staff, further deficiencies and constraints in the existing roadway network were identified, and recommendations made for improvements," the master plan said.

The 311-page data also recommends roadway improvements on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. On Saipan, for example, it recommends intersection modifications including those at the Chalan Monsignor Guerrero and Chalan Pale Arnold and Tun Herman Pan and Flame Tree Drive.

It also recommends the installation of new traffic signal at certain intersections, including Beach Road and Quartermaster Road, Beach Road and Gualo Rai Road, Beach Road and CPL Derence Jack Road, Beach Road and Micro Beach Road, and Beach Road and Tun Segundo Road.

MGM Garment burglary suspect on 'wanted' list

The Department of Public Safety has placed on its wanted list an ex-convict who was among four suspects who allegedly burglarized and stole items from warehouses of the defunct MGM Garment Manufacturing in Chalan Piao.

DPS spokesperson Eric David said Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo issued an arrest warrant for Jake A. Ito on Thursday.

David said the DPS Thief Apprehensive Select Coalition is asking the public for information on the whereabouts of Ito.

Ito is described as 31 years old, about 5'6" tall, weighs around 130 lbs, has black hair with a goatee, and dark colored skin.

Ito was last seen in the vicinity of Susupe and Chalan Kanoa area, said David.

"Mr. Ito has a history of violent criminal acts. The public is advised not to approach him and is urged to call 911," David said.

Police arrested over the weekend Ito's co-defendants—Sharp Ngiruto, Franco Edboy, and Donny Swei.

Police investigation showed that on April 5, the four suspects broke into the warehouses of the former MGM Garment factory and stole an air compressor, three exhaust fans, and other metal items.

The suspects sold the items, except the air compressor, to Triple Star Recycling Center. Police traced the air compressor to a residence in Koblerville. (Ferdie dela Torre)

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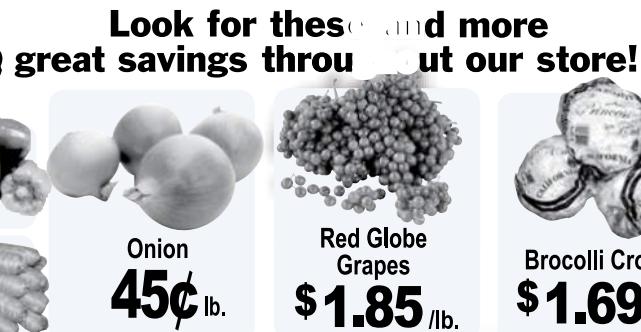


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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Denting the deficit: \$100 million won't do it; here are five changes that could

President Obama is requiring government agencies to find \$100 million in savings. Next year's budget deficit will be \$1.4 trillion. The new reductions would generate savings equal to 0.007 percent of that — something like trying to deal with a \$5,000 credit card debt by forgoing a pack of gum.

We understand the importance of symbolism, and we're all for telling the Department of Homeland Security, as Mr. Obama did, that the \$3 million it has given to consultants to come up with new logos is more than enough. The trouble is not this acknowledged drop in the bucket; the trouble is that Mr. Obama is simultaneously emptying the bucket a lot faster with spending proposals and a reluctance to take steps to really dent the deficit.

Here are a number of policies the administration and Congress could consider if they want to go beyond symbolism. None would be easy, but they would have the potential to generate significant savings or revenue and win at least some bipartisan support.

■ Raise the Social Security retirement age to 68 from the slated increase to 67. As people live longer, it makes sense that they work a bit longer, too. This change could be made gradually, and eventually would save \$10 billion a year, with savings left over to strengthen the disability program to protect manual laborers and those who need to retire early.

■ Change the tax treatment of health insurance. The policy of taxing wages but not employer-provided health insurance leads to the over-consumption of health insurance, which contributes to growing health-care costs while creating an unfair tax break for those with high incomes. It would be more sensible to at least cap the tax break at the cost of an average plan, for a savings of \$25 billion a year.

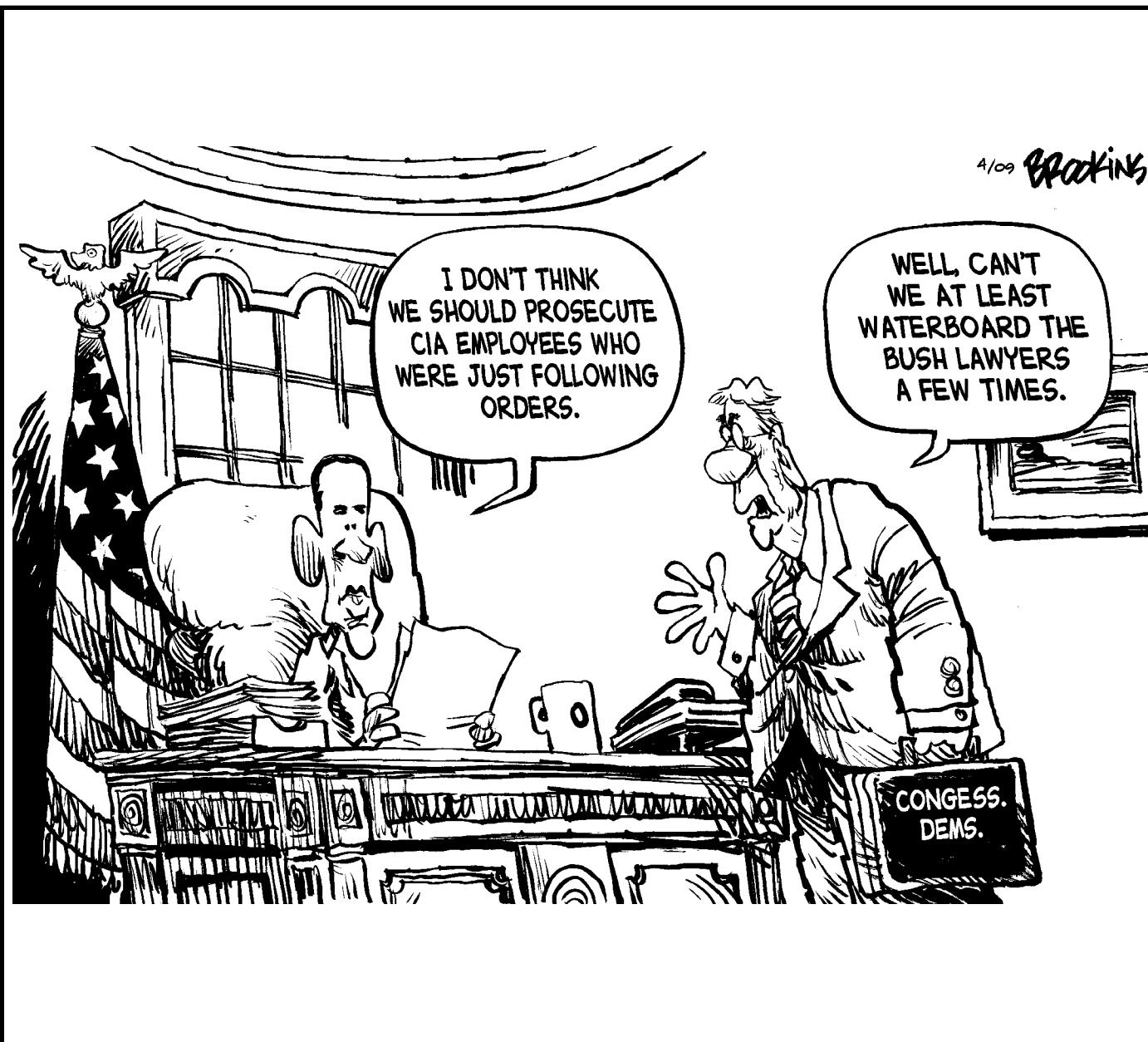
■ Reduce farm subsidies, which run well over \$10 billion most years. Price supports have led to an industry overly dependent on government giveaways. They should be replaced with a fairer system of self-sustaining insurance. Mr. Obama has proposed a fairly timid version of subsidy reform, and even that is running into stiff opposition.

■ Reduce Social Security benefits for the well-off while protecting those who depend on the program. As controversial as Social Security reform is, every serious policy expert recognizes the need for changes, including benefit reductions. Better targeted reductions than across-the-board cuts.

■ The government's transportation trust fund is running out of money. Raise gas taxes, untouched since 1993, or establish a tax on vehicle miles traveled to help pay for the roads and rails that need rebuilding. Airlines and, especially, private aviation need to pay more to upgrade the air traffic control system.

All told, these policies could yield savings and revenue of roughly \$75 billion a year. That's not enough to close the budget deficit or meet spending needs, but it's more than a hunt for loose change.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



On Earth Day, think Thoreau

Earth Day arrived Wednesday, and with it, several "green" events, including the broadcasting of "Walden: The Ballad of Thoreau" on public television and in schools. This is surprising at a time when government involvement in the environment is all the rage. Henry David Thoreau, who wrote that "government is best which governs not at all," is probably writhing in his grave.

Instead of keeping environmental management at the local level where it is most efficient, we are moving toward more centralization. This trend—call it green nationalism—is not new. Theodore Roosevelt's "New Nationalism" platform moved the country away from local control of resources toward bureaucratic management for the masses. Roosevelt set aside 200 million acres of public land and created federal management agencies, such as the Bureau of Reclamation and the Forest Service. These agencies were to "produce the greatest good for the greatest number"—a noble but impossible goal.

And now President Barack Obama has added more than 2 million acres to today's 600-million-acre federal estate, losing millions of tax dollars a year on land rich in resources because there is no incentive to control management costs or to generate returns on resources such as timber. In the meantime, maintenance falls by the wayside.

Managing resources from Washington means politically directed projects, which often ignore fiscal realities and long-term environmental effects. The Forest Service's Smokey Bear campaign, for example, was created to prevent wildfires and protect lumber for the armed forces. Smokey came to symbolize decades of fire suppression, which unfortunately has resulted in today's catastrophic accumulations of fuel in our forests and exorbitant taxpayer costs to fight wildfires. In 2006, the Forest Service spent \$1.5 billion for emergency fire suppression; 45 percent of its budget for 2008 was committed to fire prevention and suppression.

Green nationalism didn't stop with Roosevelt. President Richard Nixon helped build an unprecedented bureaucratic morass: the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA; the Clean Air and Clean Water acts; the Endangered Species Act; and the list goes on. Environmental improvements continued under these regulations but with a much higher price tag than in the previous decades.

Have regulations gone too far? These have come with bloated bureaucracies spending billions of taxpayer dollars. Environmental scholars such as New York Law School professor David Schoenbrod agree that "the best estimates are that we could have achieved

By LAURA E. HUGGINS
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Huggins, a research fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and at the Property and Environment Research Center in Bozeman, Mont., is the author with Terry Anderson of Greener Than Thou.



the present level of environmental quality at a quarter of the direct cost." NEPA, for example, created a logjam for the Forest Service by halting timber sales and forcing the agency to spend resources defending itself in court. Meanwhile, millions of acres go unmanaged, exacerbating the already heavy fuel loads.

Why is Obama feeding the green Goliath that Roosevelt and Nixon helped create? Increasing the Environmental Protection Agency's budget to \$10.5 billion in 2010 (a 35 percent increase) and passing the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, which includes 170 bills to federally shelter public lands and rivers at an estimated start-up cost of \$6.4 billion, will only leave the giant begging for more, leaving taxpayers' pockets emptier.

Real change would be moving environmental management closer to home and providing incentives for private investment, both of which can be done without adding to a burgeoning federal debt. Because local communities bear the costs and benefits of resource management decisions, they manage resources in ways that make economic and environmental sense. And nonprofit groups are already using private resources to produce positive environmental results. Land trusts, for example, have conserved acreage equivalent to 16 1/2 times the size of Yellowstone National Park, according to studies. And for-profit companies are making unsubsidized profits by producing new services. As T.J. Rogers, chief executive of SunPower Corp., put it: "I want solar if it makes money, and I don't want solar if it doesn't make money."

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Let's celebrate the environmental entrepreneurs and the people making decisions on the ground rather than Big Brother from Washington. As Thoreau observed: "The character inherent in the American people has done all that has been accomplished, and it would have done somewhat more, if the government had not sometimes got in its way."

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Still strategically strategic

The world is finally starting to wake up to the inevitability of an Asian arms race, and Saipan's corner of the world is going to see a lot of changes. Sure, Uncle Sam's military build up in Guam is old, or at least established, news, but it's the Asian nations themselves that are going to shake things up. Just you watch.

This week has given us a taste of things to come. Here's a headline from the U.K. *Telegraph*, April 20: "Japan 'should develop nuclear weapons' to counter North Korea threat."

Here's the nut graf: "Shoichi Nakagawa, former finance minister, suggested that Japan should examine the possibility of defending itself from potential attacks from North Korea by obtaining nuclear weapons."

This issue might not have real traction now (please spare me any comments on Japan's constitutional nuances, that's not the issue I'm addressing today) but Asia in a few years is going to be a whole new game, and Japan might have a lot more incentive to bulk up militarily.

As for China, well, let's grab a random headline. They're not hard to find. Here's the lead from an April 17 piece on the BBC's web site: "China is planning to boost the size and sophistication of its naval power, the head of the Chinese navy told state news agency Xinhua."

As always, "news" is mere trivia that can only hint at more profound truths. One big issue behind Asia's gig is that the economic decline of the U.S. is going to leave one heck of a strategic vacuum in Asia, since a military marches on its wallet. And

China's rise is too obvious to mention.

Therefore, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and the Philippines, to name a few players, will be looking at a whole new game. Alliances with the U.S. have, for entire generations now, been built on the assumption that Uncle Sam is the biggest guy in the block. But when just one ally openly flouts that assumption, it will be like yanking a brick out of an old wall. The industrial nations can quite quickly arm themselves, and with nukes, no less, and they'll have the means to deliver them, too. The Philippines, for its part, could serve as a mighty interesting flash point if east and west are going to throw off some sparks, and there is a lot more than meets the eye on this.

When alliances start to change, weaken, shift, or otherwise get wacky, then Guam is going to be more important than ever to Uncle Sam, and, reciprocally, more important than ever to any rivals to Uncle Sam. Ditto, one way or the other for the Commonwealth.

You and I haven't been blindsided by this. In my July 27, 2007, column ("Strategically strategic") I said: "As the world's economic center of gravity continues to shift toward industrial Asia, the Commonwealth is going to find itself on one flank of the inevitable Asian arms race. We are, to use a term much in vogue in the CNMI, in a 'strategic' location. That's a happy coincidence, actually, given that 'strategic' just happened to be in fashion locally."

I'll link to that column at SaipanBlog.com, because this issue isn't going away. It will keep building, generally invisibly, as news stories only occasionally break the surface.

Other than keeping generally aware of the world's changing

By ED STEPHENS JR.

Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.



winds, what can Saipan do? Pretty much nothing. An Asian arms race, or the specter thereof, certainly doesn't change the fact that tourism in the Commonwealth's only intrinsically competitive industry. Tourists are still going to be tourists, regardless of how many cruisers or missiles their home countries are making.

Meanwhile, it may pay to keep an eye on the latest directions of military money going to the Marianas, since ancillary industries can grow around it. See troops in garrison, and you'll also see opportunities in restaurants, taverns, car sales, barber shops, dry cleaners, and so on; in this vein, for example, I've got pals who are doing quite well in Guam right now. Those who fled the CNMI's meltdown a decade ago (some of whom were my clients) hit Guam at just the right time.

We're at the transition point where economic changes are going to start producing military changes. I'm qualified to delve into both realms, and I'll continue doing just that on your behalf. So stay tuned, because we will live in interesting times.

Letters to the Editor

When free isn't really free

Well, well, well. The CNMI finally finds out the details behind the CNMI's "volunteer" attorney, Howard P. Willens. How sad that it took a lawsuit by Rep. Tina Sablan just to find out that free really isn't free. This is also one more reason why the CNMI needs a transparent government for a change! Is it possible to find out if there is another "volunteer" contract somewhere hidden in the government's dark abyss for an additional "volunteer" special legal counsel?

After reviewing Governor Fitial's "volunteer" contract with Willens, it appears he is making at least \$93,000 a year. Here's the official breakdown for his civic duty:

- \$48,000 annually for his contract as special legal counsel.
- \$24,000 annually for food and lodging (apparently while we common folk eat Spam, Howard dines on prime rib and lobster at the taxpayers' expense).
- \$12,000 annually for renting a car (did that include a chauffeur?)
- \$9,000 annually for airfare between Saipan and Washington, D.C. (Wouldn't that be better spent if it were donated to medical referral patients?).

I am sure that the compensation Willens receives from the CNMI

On Bill Stewart's political dissertation

My basic intent is to encourage the Fund to present the entire picture—forest over the trees—so that we probe and understand the apparent hierarchical roots of neglect that led to the financial debacle or what's now an established legacy of bankruptcy of the program. I wasn't interested in anybody's political career. I wanted real rock solid solutions or answers.

But Mr. Bill Stewart, an old fart from the former Trust Territory Government (and I don't know how he became a member of the Fund) decided to add fuel to fire with his disoriented dissertation making my views over the substantive concerns raised in my original letter. May I reiterate—letter—and not anywhere near Mr. Stewart's meandering gobbledegook that led to nowhere. His deflection of the issues didn't assist anyone. How sad that he saw my views as fodder for criticism rather than converging to offer something constructive for the benefit of all. It is really very unbecoming for an alleged economist of stature to engage in total redundancy! But then, there's a positive side to it: I had the longest yawn of my life!

He deserves his dues (whatever that may be) for providing a perfect glorification of all that went wrong with what's now a precarious posture of the Fund. In fact, he added color to his longish dissertation by intoning the longest rendition of "Going Around in Circles". The only thing we agreed upon is our earnest desire to see the financial viability of the Fund. But he needs to buckle down and present the real picture over his perceptual concoction only he understands. He engaged in a tangent, convinced he's politically correct. But we know better, sir, what can happen to people in a discipline known for being an imperfect science!

each year is chump change for a big-shot attorney, but why didn't Willens come out initially and admit that he was in fact getting compensated for his work? If Governor Fitial lied about Willens' contract, imagine the lies and cover-ups behind this federalization lawsuit! If anything, this justifies Tina's lawsuit, and Tina's fellow colleagues better get on board the Open Government Express to find out exactly how much is being spent on Fitial and Willens' federalization lawsuit.

So how is the Fitial administration spinning this? They are claiming Willens does not receive a "salary" so he is in fact working for free. If making \$100,000 a year is the Fitial administration's idea of volunteerism, then please tell us where we can sign up!

Perhaps the Fitial administration needs to open up a dictionary to find out what the word "volunteer" really means:

Volunteer [vol-uh n-teer] (noun) - a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.

To the real volunteers of the CNMI who do extraordinary things for our community day in and day out without ever expecting compensation, and oftentimes don't even get a pat on the back, we salute

But then it is typical of any writer who no longer has anything of substance to offer to resort to baseless arguments to deflect attention from the real issues at hand. He admitted to having written over 50 op-eds on this matter. Obviously, nobody heeded them as they were trash we can do without. Furthermore, it was and still is his responsibility to make his presentation brief, clear and simple. Such an approach would have made it home to the trustees. It never did and it never will either. So much for his longish and useless, if not diabolical, dissertations!

Now, there's an article in the April 21st edition of the paper about the planned trip to San Francisco of four trustees and several staff members of the Fund. It involves expenditure of scarce Fund money upwards of \$26,000. I would agree if the trip were limited to permanent staff of the program. After all, they almost always outlast trustees who leave after their term. Whatever the staff secures from the seminar, training or conference prepares them for implementation of their newly acquired skills where appropriate. Call the impending junket wasteful expenditure of scarce Fund money!

In contrast, Mr. Tony S. Muna offered a simple explanation of the establishment of the two plans so designed to slow down the quick bankruptcy of the Fund. It was a lucid piece of explanation that offered an opportunity to understand their dual purposes. I fail to see this in Mr. Stewart's meandering and disoriented dissertation. Muna succeeded while Stewart took stewardship of a failed dissertation. Have a nice day, sir!

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonna, Saipan

you. Thanks for volunteering your time and for making the CNMI a better place to live. As the old adage goes, "It is in giving that we truly receive."

Ed Propst

Dandan, Saipan

La Fiesta Mall: Gambling and what else?

According to a recent article in the *Saipan Tribune*, Bridge Capital LLC is proposing to operate video lottery games at the La Fiesta Mall. The Mall is located in the remote, quiet, family-oriented village of As Matuus. Not only is there a concern of the impact such an operation will have on the residents in that area, but perhaps a further concern is about what else might be planned for the future. Wasn't there a previous proposal for Saipan's "adult entertainment" businesses to be relocated to La Fiesta as well?

If Bridge Capital gets its foot in the door with the video lottery games, will the adult entertainment and then full-on gambling be next? Certainly there must be some other socially beneficial businesses that would be better choices?

Is this what the community wants? How about the families living in San Roque, As Matuus and Marpi? What do you think about this plan and other uses of the La Fiesta Mall? Now is the time to make ourselves heard!

Perry Conner
As Matuus

Be a man!

In response to Mr. Tinian3's comments, I know who you really are and I won't disclose your name but I don't hide behind my computer. I actually consider my computer as a jackhammer and your comments about me to step up to the plate doesn't allow me due to my ongoing medical treatment here in Portland, Oregon.

If you're so diverse, I challenge you to step up and run for governor of the CNMI. Who knows you might just win this 2009 election year and you might just stop your moaning, groaning, crying attitude about my articles and you might solve all the important problems in the CNMI.

The reason why I write letters about Saipan is because I have a constitutional right to voice my concerns about our islands, important issues instead of doing nothing, with your thumb up your you know what. I mean, man up and don't hide your name from the public.

Joaquin Romolor
Portland, Oregon

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Yap	Rain	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Dreary	▲ 65 ▼ 53
Beijing	Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 45
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 73
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 76 ▼ 66
London	Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 48
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 54
Manila	Rain	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 65 ▼ 55
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 70
New York	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 54
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 57
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 48
Pusan	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 50
Rome	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 53
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 35
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 47
Seoul	Rain	▲ 58 ▼ 45
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 51
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 57

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
12:51 AM Today	Low Tide: 0.7 Feet
6:31 AM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet
1:20 PM Today	Low Tide: 0.0 Feet
7:48 PM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:58 AM	6:33 PM	Today	4:50 AM	5:41 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM	Saturday	5:34 AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM	Sunday	6:22 AM	7:43 PM
Monday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM	Monday	7:17 AM	8:48 PM
Tuesday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM	Tuesday	8:17 AM	9:52 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747.

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The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7

Saipan-Guam

C09317 5:00am 5:50am Daily
C09318 8:30am 9:20am Daily
C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota
C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6
C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily
C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily
C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily
NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily

Guam-Narita

NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily
NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka

OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6

Guam-Osaka

NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily

Guam-Nagoya

NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily

Saipan-Incheon

OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1
OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7

Guam-Palau

CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7
CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5

Palau-Manila

CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5

Guam-Manila

CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror
CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily
PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7

Nagoya-Manila

NW 71 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily

Incheon-Hongkong

<p

NMC caps Career Discovery Month with job fair

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College yesterday ended its Career Discovery Month with a job fair that saw students and companies exploring employment possibilities in the future.

This year, 14 groups and entities from both private and public sectors collaborated with the college in extending assistance to the island's potential workforce.

NMC career office manager Heather Santos said majority of participants in the two-hour job fair were students from various programs and courses.

Last year, NMC celebrated Career Discovery Week and highlighted a number of festivities relating to career development.

Santos said this year's month-long celebration focused on various career workshops for

students—all providing tips on effective career planning.

"After providing them learning about resume building, interviewing, [and] etiquette, we now bring them the actual career fair where they can personally interact with business groups," she said.

The event, Santos said, primarily targets NMC students, especially the more than 125 graduating students this semester.

NMC has about 800 students enrolled this semester.

Also invited, though they didn't show up, were senior students from the island's public high schools.

"We provide them this opportunity so they can easily make the transition into the workforce," she added.

Santos is confident that NMC students are now more familiar and knowledgeable on their ca-

reer options.

"For our junior and freshmen students on campus, this is a good way for them to be able to interact with agencies to gain information that would ultimately guide them in planning their career," Santos said.

For senior student Abigail Sarmiento, 19, yesterday's event was a "good start." She will be graduating from a criminal justice planning course next semester.

Like other students in the fair, Sarmiento believes that information from participating companies would be helpful to those seeking jobs after graduation.

"It is important that we figure out what are the available career options after graduation. It will assist and guide us...in the right direction," she said.

For out-of-school youths like Anthony Santos, the event



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Northern Marianas College employee assists a student in filling out an application form during NMC's Career Fair yesterday.

also served as an effective encouragement for kids to go back to school.

The 18-year-old, through his friends, was also motivated to check the other "options" he

may have after high school. He said he plans to go back to school next year.

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 2007 Ford Ranger King Cab STOCK # 7PA31120 \$16,995.00*	 2007 Honda CR-V LX STOCK # 7C073538 \$19,995.00*	 2005 Ford Focus SE STOCK # 5W222614 \$9,995.00*
 2005 Nissan Frontier 4x4 STOCK # 5C411080 \$19,995.00*	 2005 Kia Sportage 4x4 STOCK # 57085101 \$14,995.00*	 2005 Nissan Sentra S STOCK # 5L472573 \$11,995.00*
 Mona Menglo Sales Consultant Visit or call 234-5562	 2005 Nissan Xterra SE STOCK # 5C615035 \$18,995.00*	 2005 Honda Civic LX STOCK # 5H503419 \$10,995.00*

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Learning Chamorro is just a smile away

Although visitors to the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam will do just fine speaking only English while on vacation here, they are aware that it is always a good idea to know some important Chamorro phrases.

This propelled isleSMILE to life in April 2009 as the first and only T-shirt company in the Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam motivated by a desire to not only help foreign visitors learn useful Chamorro phrases but also help preserve and promote this endangered language.

isleSMILE is a collection of T-shirts with prints of basic Chamorro phrases such as *hafa adai*, *si yu'us ma'ase*, *buen probecho*, and many oth-

ers that may help tourists enjoy their stay on Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam.

Proprietor Franco O. Mendoza cited various reports noting that the number of Chamorro speakers has declined in recent years, with the younger generation speaking the language less in everyday conversation due to western influences, particularly the media and the Internet.

Mendoza said TV shows such as MTV and social networking sites like Facebook put more pressure among the Chamorro youths to speak and write in English rather than in their native tongue.

University of California at Santa Cruz professor of linguistics Sandra Chung, who

has done linguistic research on Chamorro since 1976, says the language is now at a critical moment in its history. In 2008, she was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation for a collaborative project to help preserve the endangered Chamorro language.

Chung and Dr. Elizabeth D. Rechebe, a retired Chamorro educator, are working with the Chamorro community in the Mariana Islands to significantly upgrade the documentation of the language. Total funds awarded for the three-year collaborative project are \$300,000, of which \$15,000 will go to UC Santa Cruz.

Derived from the word Chamori or Chamoli, which

means noble, Chamorro is an Austronesian language spoken by 45,000 people in the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mendoza said isleSMILE does not claim to be the front-runner in the effort to promote and preserve the Chamorro language "but we would like to help out by making the process of learning the language fun and not too academic."

Using only top quality shirts from reputable T-shirt makers, isleSMILE shirts feature excellent designs that represent an amalgamation of modern art and local culture.

"We are committed to ensuring that all our shirts not only



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former Department of Community and Cultural Affairs chief of administration Maggie Sablan wears an isleSMILE shirt, which she lauds as an extraordinary effort to help preserve and promote the Chamorro language.

meet the highest standards but also remain true to our vision of helping promote local cultures, including but not limited to the Chamorro language," Mendoza said.

He added that isleSMILE shirts capture the islands' culture of warmth and hospitality and are a constant assurance that "we welcome our guests

with the sincerest of smiles and that we stop at nothing to make sure they return home from our paradise islands wearing the Hafa Adai smile."

For more information about isleSMILE shirts, call Mendoza at 288-0001 or send inquiries to franco@myislesmile.com or visit www.myislesmile.com. (PR)

May is Tourism Month in NMI

The top industry of the Northern Mariana Islands will receive full fanfare in May, as the community prepares to celebrate Tourism Month.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will officially proclaim the month during a proclamation signing ceremony on April 29, 2009. The public is invited to join the ceremony, which will be held at 1:30pm at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill, Saipan.

The highlight of the month will be the much anticipated Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden, slated for each Saturday in May from 6pm to 10pm at the American Memorial Park.

Chefs of island hotels and other vendors will share their best island dishes at over 15 booths, while non-stop live entertainment and competitions take place on two stages. Admission to the event is free.

Island residents are encouraged to show their *Hafa Adai-Tirow* spirit by wearing island-wear—such as island print shirts

"Tourism Month is an opportunity for everyone to celebrate the main industry of the Northern Mariana Islands, and we look forward to another festive month this year," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Every member of our community has a stake in tourism, now more than ever."

Other events throughout the month will include radio trivia and other public education activities.

As a prelude to the month's celebration, tourism industry partners and community volunteers will hold a cleanup on April 28, 2009, beginning at 6am at American Memorial Park. Free t-shirts will be given to first 100 participants. (PR)

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TOYOTA

 COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Soledad Annual Fiesta

The public is invited to join the Annual Fiesta celebration of Santa Soledad on April 26, 2009, 9am, at the Kagman Church. There will be foods, entertainment and other activities. (PR)

Live fire releases on Farallon set

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire releases on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on April 28 and 30, 2009, from 08:30am to 12pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

Townhall meetings in Kagman for Republican bets

The Kagman Komunitat Association is inviting the public to its first of many townhall meetings. Voters can get to know the Republican candidates who will face off in the Republican primary in June. Juan N. Babauta and Galvin Deleon Guerrero will be having their townhall meeting on Wednesday, April 29. Heinz Hofsneider and Arnold Palacios will be having their townhall meeting on Thursday, April 30. Both townhall meetings will be held at the Kagman Community Center at 7pm. The purpose of the townhall meetings is for voters to stay informed and gather information from the candidates by asking the candidates questions and listening to the candidates' platforms on the economy, Article 12, tourism, military buildup, crime, gambling, etc. Come and get to know the candidates before voting. (PR)

NMC 2009 graduation candidates meeting

Spring 2009 Graduation Candidates of the Northern Marianas College are invited to attend the Graduation Committee Meeting scheduled for April 25, 2009, (Saturday), at the Student Support Services office located in Building J on the NMC campus at 2pm.

The meeting will feature updates on graduation, a discussion on the plans for the commencement banquet, and other aspects of graduation. For more information, contact Jack Kiyoshi, Jr., at 234-5498 Ext. 1021 or e-mail jackk@nmcnet.edu. All students preparing to graduate in May 2009 are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. (NMC)

DPS to re-route traffic tomorrow

The Department of Public Safety will re-route traffic tomorrow, April 25, to ensure the safety of participants and motorists during the Flame Tree Arts Festival Parade and the Tagaman Triathlon. DPS will close and divert traffic along Beach Road between 6am and 10am Saturday. The Flame Tree Arts Festival and Tagaman Triathlon will take place simultaneously during these hours.

David said affected areas will be from the Susupe Mobil Gas Station to the San Jose Mobil Gas Station. David said the road between the Garapan Fire Substation and the Navy Hill/Commonwealth Health Center Traffic Light will be closed between 6am and 12pm.

Areas from Middle Road Puerto Rico to Marpi will be utilized by the Tagaman athletes as well.

NMPASI sets Family Fun Fair and Awareness Day

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. will be hosting a Family Fun Fair and Awareness Day on May 2, 2009, from 8am to 12pm, at the Minatchom Attdao in Susupe, Saipan.

As part of the event, NMPASI is holding an essay contest on the topic: "My story: What good mental health means to me and three things I do for myself to feel better when I feel unhappy."

The essay contest is open to everyone in the Commonwealth. Entries must be less than two pages long and must be submitted to the NMPASI office on Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, on or before 4pm on April 30, 2009.

Entries may be delivered to the NMPASI office or faxed to 235-7275 or emailed to jeanneesq@yahoo.com.

Winners will be announced on May 2, 2009, at the Family Fun Fair and Awareness Day.

Prizes will be awarded to winners in the following categories:

- Category 1: Ages 6-12
- Category 2: Ages 13-15
- Category 3: Ages 16-18
- Category 4: Adults over 18 years

For more information, contact Kaye Christian at 288-5293 or Jeanne Rayphand at 235-7273. (NMPASI)

OPA to visit Tinian today

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Tinian today, April 24, 2009, to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials. Filers may visit the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission conference room today from 9am to 4:30pm. All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure


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2X4X20 - \$5.60

2X6X12 - \$6.70

2X6X14 - \$7.60

2X6X16 - \$8.90

2X6X18 - \$9.90

2X6X20 - \$10.90

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2X4X14 - \$6.80

2X4X16 - \$7.70

2X4X18 - \$8.80

2X4X20 - \$9.60

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2X6X14 - \$11.00

2X6X16 - \$13.00

2X6X18 - \$14.50

2X6X20 - \$16.00

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U09-037T	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	47397	WHITE	ACA-860	8,499	
R09-004B	2004	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	100808	GRAY	ACB-770	9,999	
R09-005F	2006	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	57427	SILVER	ABZ-639	10,999	

GM CARS

R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	7,299
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	9,599	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999	9,499

LEXUS

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CNMI education officials appeal to Obama

Say transfer of expenditure power on stimulus fund violates ARRA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saiopantribune.com
REPORTER

Officials of the CNMI Public School System have appealed to President Barack Obama to disapprove any request that would permit the Interior Secretary to hand out the stabilization funds provided under the stimulus law.

In a two-page letter to the U.S. president, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and acting Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero said the request of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the governors of other insular areas to have the Interior chief disburse the funds violates

the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, particularly sections A and D of 14001.

Sablan and Guerrero said that in the CNMI, the state education board and not the governor are responsible for public education, which is clearly indicated in the Commonwealth Constitution.

The governors' request was sent to Obama last March 4. In that letter, Fitial joined the governors of Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to ask that Obama give the authority to spend the stabilization funds on infrastructure projects rather than education.

"The CNMI PSS was disappointed to receive the March 4 letter from the governors of the U.S. territories requesting authority to spend the state fiscal stabilization fund on island infrastructure rather than on education. The CNMI PSS respectfully requests that the SFSF be used on education as the law intends," the PSS officials' joint letter to Obama states.

Sablan disclosed that the chief state school officers for the four outlying areas met with U.S. Department of Education officials last March 11.

The discussion focused on how each of the outlying areas will use the stabilization funds

and other ARRA funding in accordance with the intention of the law.

The plans include hiring of additional teachers, making schools more energy efficient, expanding the use of technology in classrooms, making repairs and renovations at schools, and providing extended day school program, Saturday school, and special summer activities.

"The CNMI-PSS needs the stabilization funds that will be made available as we are challenged by declining local support for public education. The system has worked with our stakeholders on how to prioritize the funds," the local

officials said.

They added that part of the stabilization funds will be used to hire 109 teachers that were laid off due to budget cuts in the last three years.

A portion will also be used to renovate schools, technology upgrades, and expansion of the career and technical education programs.

There are 10,913 students currently enrolled in 20 public schools in the Commonwealth and only \$34 million has been appropriated by the local government for its annual operations this fiscal year. The amount is lower than what it received in 1999, which was

\$37.2 million, when there were fewer students and schools.

Sablan and Guerrero reported to Obama that despite the funding issues, these 20 public schools have a nine-year record of improving student achievement and are continuing to make progress in their effort to make certain that students are taught by highly qualified teachers and highly effective teachers as measured by student academic achievement.

"We can only continue to go forward with the proper spending of the SFSF on education," they appealed.

The education officials asked that the U.S. Secretary of Education retain the administration and oversight of the stabilization fund.

COMMUNITY

From Page 15

to do so may result in the denial of notary services. For any inquiries or comments, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. (PR)

Prior Service Benefit Program notice

The Prior Service Trust Fund board has declared that effective May 1, 2009, adopted children will be prohibited in the determination of survivor benefits. Only the surviving spouse and natural children will be considered as dependents under the program. (PR)

NMC Charter Day competitions briefing, preliminary dates set

In anticipation of NMC's Charter Day on May 8, the Charter Day Entertainment Committee will be conducting briefings and auditions/rehearsals for various competitions and events, which include Marianas Idol, Battle of the Bands and CNMI's Best Dance Crew. Individuals interested in competing in the upcoming Charter Day competitions are strongly encouraged to attend the pre-competition briefings on the following dates:

- April 23, 2009 for Marianas Idol (5pm at the Student Center in Bldg. J)
- April 24, 2009 for Battle of the Bands (5pm at the Student Center in Bldg. J)
- April 25, 2009 for CNMI's Best Dance Crew (10am at the Student Center in Bldg. J)

The scoring rubric and other regulations will be discussed. The NMC Charter Day Entertainment Committee will also be holding auditions/rehearsals on the following days:

- May 4, 2009 for Marianas Idol (5pm - 8pm in Room D-1)
- May 5, 2009 for CNMI's Best Dance Crew (5pm - 8pm in Room D-1)
- May 6, 2009 for Battle of the Bands (5pm - 8pm in Room D-1)

For more information, contact Ivan Mereb at 234-5498 ext 1251, e-mail ivanm@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. Applications are available the NMC Student Center in Building J of the College's As Terlaje campus. (NMC)

Military ID card personnel to visit Saipan

This is to let all military identification cardholders and all concerned that the 9th Mission Support Command ID Card personnel will be on Saipan to issue new or renewal of military ID cards. They will be at the Army Reserve Center on Saipan from May 18 to 22, 2009. Their hours are from 8am-6pm. For any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 664-2650 or Maj. Greg Sablan at the Army Reserve Center at 322-6671. (PR)

Football group to hold referee course

The Northern Marianas Island Football Association will conduct an EAFF Referee 3 Certification Course on May 1-3 and May 8-9, 2009, for all interested individuals ages 16 and older (trained, experienced referees ages 14-15 also welcome). To register, call NMIFA at 235-0173. (PR)

KagES April calendar of events

April 27-May 1 SAT 10 Assessment for 3rd and 5th grade students

Quarterly tax return deadline

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to remind all CNMI residents that the 2009 1st Quarter deadline for filing the quarterly tax returns is Thursday, April 30, 2009. The Division of Revenue and Taxation will be open from 7:30am to 4:30pm on Thursday, April 30, 2009. The office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation is located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. For more information, call 664-1000, 664-1043 Compliance Branch, or 664-1066 Collection Branch. (PR)

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NMI Arts Council wins \$25K grant from NEA



Cabrera



Reyes



Barrineau

Humanities Council names officers

The NMI Council for the Humanities re-elected Dr. Debra T. Cabrera to a second term as board chair during a quarterly board meeting held on April 16.

Cabrera, who is the dean of Academic Programs and Services at the Northern Marianas College, has served on the Council's board since September 2005. She was first elected board chair in April 2008.

The board also elected Charles P. Reyes, Jr. as vice chair and William R. Barrineau as secretary/treasurer.

Reyes, who joined the board in May 2008, is Gov. Benigno R. Fi-

tial's public information and protocol officer. He is one of three gubernatorial appointees on the Council's 13-member board.

Barrineau is a retired educator and former Humanities Council executive director, a position he held for nearly 10 years. He will be serving his second term as the Council's secretary/treasurer.

The Council is a private, non-profit corporation with 501 (C) (3) tax status that was established in 1991. It provides a variety of educational initiatives and humanities programs to lifelong learners in the community.

Friends of the Arts to offer Broadway hit *My Fair Lady*

In less than a week the Friends of the Arts will be bringing one of Broadway's grandest and most successful productions, *My Fair Lady*, to the local stage.

In this bittersweet tale taken from George Bernard Shaw's classic play, *Pygmalion*, Henry Higgins, an egocentric linguist, attempts to make his version of the perfect woman out of the enchanting Cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle. After making a bet with a friend, the well-educated professor Higgins takes in, from off the streets of London, the lowly, uneducated Eliza and trains her in the ways of proper speech and high society etiquette to attempt to pass her off as a high society lady. Little in life ever works as planned and Eliza remains very much her own self and rebels against her creator.

This story has captivated and warmed the hearts of generations of audiences since its Broadway musical production beginning in 1956 and then all over again in 1964, when it was made into an instant classic film that won eight out of its 12 Academy Award nominations.

With music by Frederick Loewe and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner, come and enjoy the Friends of the Arts' own production of what has been called "the perfect musical." This local theater performance of *My Fair Lady*, as in previous Friends of the Arts productions, highlights the wealth of talent that exists on Saipan.

Kerry Uhl plays the fair maiden Eliza Doolittle. Professor Henry Higgins is portrayed with skill and polish by Rich

Additional information about the Council and its programs can be found at its website www.nmi-humanities.org or from Council staff at 235-4785. (PR)

WASHINGTON, D.C.— CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan said yesterday that a \$25,000 one-time grant has been made available to the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, a division of the CNMI's Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, to fund one full-time employee.

The money is distributed by the National Endowment of the Arts and is the first of the agency's grants awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the National Endowment for the Arts

tough economic times arts funding may fall by the wayside. ... It is great news that the Arts Council won this grant, which will help it to fulfill its important mission of promoting and preserving the Marianas' rich heritage."

With funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the National Endowment for the Arts is providing one-time grants to state arts agencies and regional arts organizations to support the arts sector of the economy. The grants must be used to preserve jobs in the arts that are in jeopardy or have been eliminated as a result of the current economic climate.

The grant will be used to fund a full-time Federal Programs Coordinator, says Cecilia T. Celis, Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

"With this grant, the Arts Council will be able to fund one employee whose job would otherwise have been lost," says Sablan. "This funding will help enrich

the lives of our citizens and expand our cultural horizons, while also stimulating our local economy."

For more information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and about funding for the Northern Marianas go to <http://sablan.house.gov>.



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Island Snapshots



TROOP MAKAHIKI

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jake Aulrez, a flight mechanic (or air crew member) from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point, shows Boy Scouts the cockpit of an HH-65 Dolphin rescue helicopter during a troop makahiki (or festival) at Sand Island State Recreation Area, Saturday, April 18, 2009. Crews from the Maritime Safety and Security Team 91107, based in Honolulu Harbor, also displayed a 25-foot response boat for the scouts to see.

U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO/PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS LUKE CLAYTON



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jarred Devito shows a young scout the bow gun on a U.S. Coast Guard 25-foot Marine Safety and Security Team 91107 response boat during a Boy Scouts of America event at Sand Island State Park in Honolulu, Saturday, April 18, 2009.

U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO/PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS LUKE CLAYTON

CULTURAL APPRECIATION AND PRESERVATION

Staffers at the Historic Preservation Office showcase some ancient Chamorro artifacts at the 2009 Environmental Expo held Tuesday at the Kagman Community Center.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

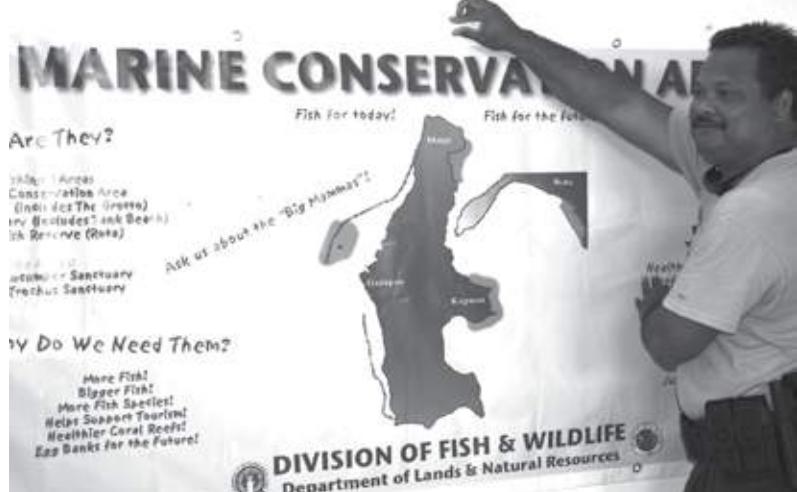


ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Tony Mareham, a conservation officer at the Division of Fish and Wildlife, provides information about the marine protected areas in the CNMI during Tuesday's 2009 Environmental Expo at the Kagman Community

Center.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CAREER WORKSHOP

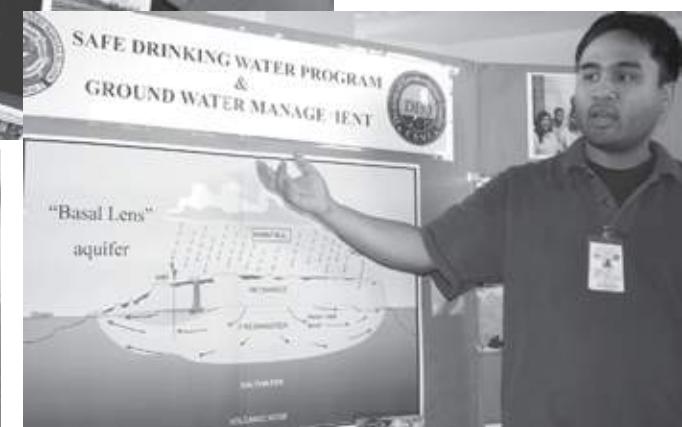
The Northern Marianas College recently invited Walt F.J. Goodridge, economist and writer of "The Saipanpreneur Project" column for the *Saipan Tribune*, to give a presentation at the Self Employment Career Development Workshop. Goodridge, far right, taught the students about starting their own businesses and about the "four kinds of passionate people." Goodridge also spoke of his experiences in the business world.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



James Eller, a district conservationist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, briefs students about the agency's programs and projects during the 2009 Environmental Expo at the Kagman Community Center Tuesday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Glenn Arriola, an environmental technician with the Division of Environmental Quality, gives students an overview of Saipan's water resources in Tuesday's 2009 Environmental Expo at the Kagman Community Center.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Joe Ruak of the Division of Fish and Wildlife explains the turtle research and monitoring program on Saipan during Tuesday's 2009 Environmental Expo at the Kagman Community Center.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

RED CROSS TRAINING

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter staff Kennedy Benjamin, John Hirsh, and Maryann Taman have their picture taken before boarding Northwest Airlines on Monday. The staff spent the weekend training on service delivery to soldiers and their families in the Armed Forces at the Yokota Air Force Base in Fussa, Japan. The two-day training focused on Services to the Armed Forces, one of the five services that the Red Cross provides. It encompassed servicing military families during times of emergencies. The training brought Red Cross members from all over Japan Military Stations to include Camp Zama, Iwakuni, Misawa and Atsugi. NMI Chapter staff Taman, Benjamin and Hirsh were among the 15 Red Cross members who successfully completed the training.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



FIRST SKATE PARK IN CNMI

This female teenager tries out the new \$241,000 Saipan Skate Park in Garapan yesterday as her other peers look on. The skate park was unveiled to the public on Wednesday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



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Lemon Powder SALE \$4.95	Golden State Vinegar SALE \$2.99	Sugar SALE \$1.59 /kg.	Kikkoman Limit 1 Cs. (6 bts) SALE \$3.79 1.6 lr.	Fresco Cooking Oil SALE \$7.99	Argo Cornstarch SALE 79¢	Excellent Rice Stick 80 oz. SALE 99¢
Pasta Select SALE 99¢	Dragon Brand Vegetable Oil SALE 7.99 1 Gal.	Seoksu Water 500 ml. SALE \$5.99 /case	Sunkist All Flavors SALE \$5.95 /case	Wilkins Water 4,000 ml. SALE \$1.99 /ea	Lipton Iced Tea 38 qrt. SALE \$5.95	Zest-O Juice All Flavors SALE \$1.95
Morton Salt SALE 69¢	Vlasic Dill Pickles Whole SALE \$6.99 Whole SALE \$5.95 Whole	Tang 22 quarts SALE \$5.99	Jin Korean Soy Sauce 1.8 Ltr. SALE \$2.99	Kimchee Base 450 G. SALE \$4.95	Dinty Moore Stew (Beef, Chicken and Meat Ball) SALE \$1.49 /15 oz.	Hoffy Portuguese Sausage SALE \$1.99 /pkg.

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Clorox 96 oz. SALE \$2.99	Cream Silk Conditioner SALE \$1.99	White Rain Shampoo & Conditioner 590 ml. 2 for \$2.95	Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct. SALE \$6.95	Butane Gas SALE \$21.99 /case 2	

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Pork Butt Slab Only SALE \$14.99 /pkg.	Miller Sausage SALE \$1.79 /lb.			Bar S Hot Links SALE \$1.99 /4 pcs.
				Bar S Bacon SALE \$2.49 /pkg.
				Bar S Jumbo Franks SALE \$1.05 /pkg.
				Beef Patties SALE \$6.95 /3 lb.
				Chicken Winggets SALE \$9.99 /5 lbs.
				Turkey Tail SALE \$17.99 /cs.
				San Pedro Calamari SALE \$4.99 /3 lbs.
				Seawave Calamari SALE \$1.79 /1 lb.

Family Bag Special

Pork Hocks SALE \$8.95	Pork Belly SALE \$10.95	Pork Adobo SALE \$9.95	Pork Spareribs SALE \$6.95	Pork Chops SALE \$13.95
Beef Stew SALE \$13.95	Beef Backribs SALE \$8.95	Beef Shortribs SALE \$15.95	Stewing Chicken SALE \$5.95	Quarter Leg s. SALE \$5.95

PRODUCE

Potato (Jumbo) SALE 79¢ /lb.	Orange SALE 89¢ /lb.	Gala/Fiji Apple SALE \$3.99 /pkg.	Banana SALE 99¢ /lb.
Red Onion SALE 99¢ /lb.	Onion SALE 59¢ /lb.	Garlic SALE 89¢ /pack-4 pcs.	U.S. Eggs Extra Large SALE \$1.99 /doz.

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Focus

By SUZANNE GAMBOA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nahuel Castrucci had no lawyer when he went before an immigration judge the first time, or the second time. He sat speechless and handcuffed as the judge was about to expel him from his own country.

That's when his mother jumped up in the courtroom and shouted, "He's a citizen! He's a U.S. citizen! He shouldn't be here!"

She was right. Her outburst prompted the judge to ask for more investigation from lawyers, eventually leading to Castrucci's release.

The American judicial system deems everyone innocent until proven guilty and guarantees a fair hearing with a lawyer—but not when it comes to immigration. Then there are far fewer rights. And as the system comes under pressure from a flood of new cases, the strain is showing.

One result is that U.S. citizens arrested as illegal immigrants or deportable residents cannot count on the legal system as a safety net. The odds are stacked against them. On the basis of interviews, lawsuits and documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, The Associated Press has documented more than 55 such cases since 2000, and immigration lawyers count hundreds more.

Those who go through the immigration legal system can be arrested without a warrant. They are not read their rights unless it's a criminal case. They do not get a lawyer unless they can pay or find one who will work for free. They can be deported without hearings. And until this January, they didn't get a free phone call.

"They are deporting a very large number of people in very fast ways, often under the radar of any review by courts," said Daniel Kanstroom, director of the International Human Rights Program at the Boston College Law School. "Deportation of citizens is the tip of the iceberg. ... The system is in dramatic, desperate need of reform."

Jim Hayes, director of detention and removal for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said his agency does not keep track of how many citizenship claims it receives, or how many turn out to be valid. He said it's more common for citizens to claim they are foreign-born to evade a criminal sentence than it is for citizens to be mistaken for immigrants.

"We don't make a habit of accidentally picking people up. It's not our desire to arrest U.S. citizens and take them into custody for immigration violations," Hayes said.

Still, he said, authorities need to be careful about determining citizenship.

"I think it's incumbent upon us to show due diligence and fully investigate and ensure this is, in fact, someone who is a U.S. citizen before we release this person to the public," Hayes said.

Castrucci is an example of how complex immigration cases can be, especially if they involve people who are born abroad and gain citizenship through U.S.-

US immigration system does not protect rights



This photo taken on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008 shows Rene Saldivar, left, with his brother-in-law Aquiles Rojas in Ceres, Calif.

born or naturalized parents.

He was arrested more than two years ago, when armed officers burst into his bedroom in Chelsea, Mass., and accused him of being in a gang he said he had left two months earlier.

Castrucci, 22, who was born in Argentina, said he thought he was a citizen because his mother was and asked officers to check his Social Security number, but they didn't. Although there were no criminal charges, immigration officials kept him in custody.

In custody, he found Laura Murray Tjan, a lawyer with the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project, but Tjan did not attend his first two hearings because she said the case should have been clear to any immigration official.

It took a month before Castrucci's citizenship was verified and he was released.

"For me, it was a matter of making use of very limited resources (hundreds of detainees, one me)," Tjan said in an e-mail. "What I ultimately learned in these citizenship cases though was that ICE repeatedly missed what I perceived as really obvious issues...They know where his bedroom is, but don't know he's a U.S. citizen."

Tjan also noted she had four or five cases of U.S. citizens picked up for removal proceedings in a year, "and I'm only one person."

■ ■ ■

Rene Saldivar, 41, of Riverbank, Calif., gained citizenship through his father, who was born in Colorado. But he had no way of proving that to immigration officials because he was sent to a jail far from home and had no access to either lawyers or legal documents such as his birth certificate.

Saldivar speaks in short sentences, like a shy child, and his family says his mental functions are on the level of a teenager.

One day in October 2007, police pulled him over as he rode a bike just ahead of the car of his brother-in-law, Aquiles Rojas. Saldivar was arrested for failing to show up for probation visits related to possessing drug paraphernalia, and was held at a Grayson

regularly sent. No luck.

For six months, the family did not know where Saldivar was. They went to Tijuana, Mexico, to look for him. Some feared he was dead. Rojas, a pastor at Samaritano in Modesto, Calif., said prayers for him.

Then, Saldivar called his sister. He had finally remembered her new number, and borrowed another detainee's phone card for the call. He asked for money to buy food and shoes, Rojas said.

It turned out Saldivar had been in an Eloy federal immigration jail all along, the same one Rojas checked. But immigration officials had recorded his last name as Saldivar, so they couldn't find him.

"I was afraid. I never been in no bad jail like that, a big jail. It was way far from my house," Saldivar said.

It took about two more months for the family to prove Saldivar was a citizen after finding him, adding up to about eight months in immigration custody, Rojas said. With the help of the nonprofit Florence Project, they tracked down his father's birth certificate. But Rojas said the certificate was considered insufficient proof.

Rojas needed Social Security records, which he was unable to get released. So he turned to his congressman, Rep. George Radanovich, R-Calif., who helped get records of Saldivar's father's work with the Colorado railroad.

Saldivar was finally released last May. Hayes said that as far as ICE knew, Saldivar was a legal resident with several drug convictions that made him deportable. A 1996 law allows legal



This undated photo released by the ACLU shows Pedro Guzman. Guzman has been an American citizen all his life. Yet in 2007, the 31-year-old Los Angeles native—in jail for a misdemeanor, mentally ill and never able to read or write—signed a waiver agreeing to leave the country without a hearing and was deported to Mexico as an illegal immigrant.

County jail for two months.

When Saldivar had completed his sentence, Rojas went to pick him up. But Saldivar wasn't there. A sheriff's deputy said immigration had him, but he didn't know where.

Rojas called immigration facilities in Sacramento, San Francisco and Eloy, Ariz., where he knew detainees were

permanent residents to be deported for any of a number of crimes, even if they have already served their sentences.

"He did not tell us he was a citizen," Hayes said. "There was not evidence he was a citizen. There was evidence that he was a lawful permanent resident. ... I think you have a very unique situation here."

Family members and advocates say Saldivar's case is not unique.

"I was upset with the system because here we are in the U.S. and this is happening with our ethnic group," Rojas said. "We've seen it, you know, time after time, and it repeats again, and it's sad."

■ ■ ■

Even if they can work the system and find lawyers, citizens who pursue their cases often run into problems in the immigration courts.

Judges have little time and many cases. Dana Marks, president of the National Association of Immigration Judges, said 214 immigration judges decided 350,000 cases last year.

"These cases are of incredible importance. These are potential U.S. citizens, many who are unrepresented. And you have an overburdened immigration court that is trying to make sure no one slips through the cracks, and it is difficult without resources," Marks said.

Immigration judges also have limited power. In testimony to Congress in February, Kara Hartzler, an attorney for the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, told of a detainee later identified by the AP as Michael Romero Jimenez.

Romero Jimenez was detained in Eloy, Ariz., for deportation. A judge agreed that he was a citizen because his father was, and since citizens are eligible for release on bond, the judge said Romero Jimenez could go on a \$1,500 bond.

But Romero Jimenez couldn't pay, and he stayed in detention while the Department of Homeland Security appealed the judge's decision. Seven months later, the appeals exhausted, Romero Jimenez was freed.

■ ■ ■

Sometimes, the mistakes that ensnare citizens can be as simple as a misunderstanding over the most mundane customs of other countries.

Mohammed Adil Adem spent more than a year in immigration jail after the court made a mistake in reading the date on his birth certificate.

Adem was born in Sudan and became a citizen when his parents were naturalized. His birth date was written in the Arabic fashion as 2/10/85, with the day first. The date was spelled out on another part of the birth certificate as Oct. 2, 1985.

Immigration officials read the date according to the American practice of putting the month first—Feb. 10, 1985. The immigration judge accused Adem of lying to the court and ordered him deported.

Adem gave up and waived his right to appeal, but attorneys with the nonprofit Florence Project found him before that could happen and persuaded him to reopen his case. They got an Arabic professor to submit a new translation verifying the date Adem had mentioned all along.

The judge finally dismissed the deportation order.

It took another 40 days before ICE released Adem.

Business

GM employees may get shutdown details this week

DETROIT (AP)—Thousands of GM workers could learn as early as Thursday that they will be idle for up to nine weeks this summer as the automaker's plants stop making all but its most popular cars and trucks.

The move is a result of slumping sales and growing inventories of unsold vehicles, but some analysts and dealers fear the plant closings could further scare car buyers already made nervous by talk of a GM bankruptcy.

General Motors Corp. is planning to temporarily close most of its U.S. factories for up to nine weeks, three people briefed on the plan said Wednesday. The exact dates of the closures are not known, but the people said they will occur around the normal two-week shutdown in July when changes are made from one model year to the next. None of the people wanted to be identified because workers have not yet been told of the shutdowns.

GM spokesman Chris Lee would not comment other than to say the company notifies employees before making any production cuts public. But UAW officials will likely raise questions about the move during meetings they have scheduled at several factories Thursday and Friday with plant managers and GM human

resource officials to discuss production changes.

Thousands of workers could be laid off but would still get most of their pay because their United Auto Workers union contract requires the company to make up much of the difference between state unemployment benefits and their wages.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Police investigating death of Freddie Mac official

VIENNA, VA. (AP)—The chief financial officer of Freddie Mac, one of the mortgage giants at the heart of the nation's financial meltdown, was found dead in his basement early Wednesday morning in what police said was an apparent suicide. David Kellermann, 41, apparently hanged himself in his suburban Washington home, said a law enforcement official familiar with the investigation. He asked not to be identified because the investigation was ongoing. Kellermann was promoted last September when the government seized the mortgage

company and ousted its top two executives. Neighbors said Kellermann had lost a noticeable amount of weight under the strain of the new job. Some neighbors said they suggested to Kellermann should quit to avoid the stress, but Kellermann responded that he wanted to help the company through its problems. The neighbors did not want to be quoted by name because they didn't want to upset the family.

Report: Treasury makes offer to Chrysler lenders

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Treasury Department lobbed back a new offer to

Chrysler LLC's lenders, proposing that banks and hedge funds which hold \$6.9 billion in debt forgive \$5.4 billion in exchange for a 5 percent stake in a Chrysler-Fiat alliance, media reports said late Wednesday. The new offer represents payment of 22 percent of the debt lenders are owed, according to a report by The Wall Street Journal. That would be up from a previously rejected government offer of 15 percent payment and no stock. However, the new proposal is still far less than the 40 percent stake and \$4.5 billion payment—representing 65 percent of what they are owed—sought by the automaker's lenders.

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April 28 & 29, 2009

(select one day)

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Tanapag Youth Center (TYC)

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For more information please call DYS at 664-2565 or 664-2552

Nation

Rice OK'd CIA waterboard request as Bush adviser

WASHINGTON (AP)—As national security adviser to former President George W. Bush, Condoleezza Rice verbally approved the CIA's request to subject alleged al-Qaida terrorist Abu Zubaydah to waterboarding in July 2002, the earliest known decision by a Bush administration official to OK use of the simulated drowning technique.

Rice's role was detailed in a narrative released Wednesday by the Senate Intelligence Committee. It provides the most detailed timeline yet for how the CIA's harsh interrogation program was conceived and approved at the highest levels in the Bush White House.

The new timeline shows that Rice played a greater role than she admitted last fall in written testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The narrative also shows that dissenting legal views about the severe interrogation methods were brushed aside repeatedly.

The Intelligence Committee's timeline comes a day after the Senate Armed Services Committee released an exhaustive



In this June 6, 2001 file photo, then National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, talks with reporters at the White House 2001 in Washington.

report detailing direct links between the CIA's harsh interrogation program and abuses of prisoners at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in Afghanistan and at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison.

Both revelations follow Presi-

dent Barack Obama's release of internal Bush administration legal memos that justified the use of severe methods by the CIA, a move that kicked up a firestorm from opposing sides of the ideological spectrum.

According to the new narrative, which compiles legal advice provided by the Bush administration to the CIA, Rice personally conveyed the administration's approval for waterboarding of Zubaydah, a so-called high-value detainee, to then-CIA Director George Tenet in July 2002.

Last fall, Rice acknowledged to the Senate Armed Services Committee only that she had attended meetings where the CIA interrogation request was discussed and asked for the attorney general to conduct a legal review. She said she did not

recall details. Rice omitted her direct role in approving the program in her written statement to the committee.

A spokesman for Rice declined comment when reached Wednesday.

Days after Rice gave Tenet the nod, the Justice Department approved the use of waterboarding in a top secret Aug. 1 memo. Zubaydah underwent waterboarding at least 83 times in August 2002.

In the years that followed, according to the narrative issued Wednesday, there were numerous internal legal reviews of the program, suggesting government attorneys raised concerns that the harsh methods, particularly waterboarding, might violate federal laws against torture and the U.S. Constitution.

But Bush administration law-

Source: Craigslist suspect Markoff had victims' items

BOSTON (AP)—A Boston University medical student accused of robbing women who advertised erotic services on Craigslist, killing one of them, had items belonging to both victims in his apartment, a law enforcement official said Wednesday.

Philip Markoff is charged with killing a masseuse at the Boston Marriott Copley Place hotel, in the historic Back Bay district, on April 14. He also is charged in the robbery of a woman at another Boston hotel four days earlier.

A law enforcement official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said police found items belonging to both women in Markoff's apartment in Quincy, south of Boston. The official wasn't authorized to speak about evidence in the investigation.

The official would not confirm a report by ABC News that the items seized by police included the victims' underwear. ABC News said two unidentified law enforcement sources said Markoff appeared to be collecting underwear as "souvenirs" from the victims.

ABC News did not say how Markoff took the underwear, and

Youth volunteering dips, first time since 9/11

CHICAGO (AP)—Volunteering has helped define a generation of young Americans who are known for their do-gooder ways. Many high schools require community service before graduation. And these days, donating time to a charitable organization is all but expected on a young person's college or job application.

Even so, an analysis of fed-

eral data has found that the percentage of teens who volunteer dipped in recent years, ending an upward trend that began after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"They're still volunteering at higher rates than their parents did," says Peter Levine, director of Tufts University's Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement, also known as CIRCLE.

But, he adds, there's been "a loss of momentum," which he hopes recent passage of the federal Serve America Act will help address.

CIRCLE researchers used data from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey for their study, which was released Thursday and funded, in part, by the Corporation for National and Community Service. They found that one in three teens, age 16 to 18, volunteered in 2005, representing a peak in community service for all age groups since the survey began tracking volunteerism in 2002.

In 2006, however, that rate dropped to 29 percent and then to 28 percent in 2007, the most recent year for which data is available. Those are the lowest percentages for that age group since the data has been collected and just one percentage point higher than adults 25 and older each of those years.

Separate market research done for VolunteerMatch, an online site that links visitors with about 63,000 nonprofit groups, found a similar decline in queries from under-18 users.



Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR INTEREST

RFI09-MOS-088

Submission Date: May 26, 2009 • Time: 4:00 p.m.

"REQUEST FOR INTEREST – TO PROVIDE FEE-BASED SERVICES AND AMENITIES AT THE SUGAR KING ESTATE REVITALIZATION PROJECT IN GARAPAN, SAIPAN"

The RFI package may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base, Saipan during regular working hours.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting is scheduled on May 12, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sugar King Estate in Garapan, Saipan.

Any questions or inquiries regarding this RFI should be addressed to the Mayor of Saipan at jbtmayor@pticom.com, no later than the closure of business, May 14, 2009.

/s/ JUAN B. TUDELA
MAYOR OF SAIPAN

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 9:00a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's office at Bldg. #1242, Panphei Ct., Capitol Hill, Saipan. Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (2/3/09)
- V. Chairman's Report
- VI. Director's Report
- VII. Investigator's Report
- VIII. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
- A. Governor's Office
- B. Legislature
- IX. Old Business:
- A. Additional Proposed Amendments to P.L. 14-95
- B. Status of S.B. 16-27 Licensing of Contractors
- X. New Business:
- A. Proposed Amendments to the Regulations for Real Property Appraisers (AOB)
- XI. Applications for Board's Review
- A. New/Renewal Applications
- B. Pending Applications
- XII. Miscellaneous Business:
- XIV. Executive Session – The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session.
- A. Case No. 2008-02
- XV. Announcements
- XVI. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Francisco Q. Guerrero
Chairman



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For Construction of a Ports Police Guard House located at the West Access Gate of the Saipan International Airport

Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Project No. CPA-SA-008-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals from construction firms/companies for the construction of a Police Guard House at the west access gate of the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Wednesday, April 15, 2009. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax and the associated costs for security access to the airport's sterile area.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m. Friday, May 8, 2009**.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the Ports Authority to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: April 14, 2009



ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009.

DATE: Friday, 24 April 2009

TIME: 2:00 PM

LOCATION: Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building
Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office
Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Adoption of Minutes
- V. Chairman's Report
- VI. Old Business
 - None
- VII. New Business
 - RCGC Administrative Budget
 - Business Forms/Applications
- VIII. Miscellaneous
- IX. Adjournment

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ **Diego M. Songao**
Chairman

World

Russia opens efforts to get NKorea back into talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Russia launched a mission Thursday to try to get North Korea back into international disarmament talks, sending its top diplomat to Pyongyang after the North announced it would restart its nuclear program.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov arrived in North Korea for a two-day visit, North's Korean Central News Agency reported in a brief dispatch. The ITAR-Tass news agency said the nuclear standoff was expected to dominate Lavrov's trip, and that he may meet later Thursday with leader Kim Jong Il.

Seeming mixed signals from the Castro brothers of Cuba

HAVANA (AP)—Raul Castro seems ready to discuss improving relations with Washington. Brother Fidel is clearly uncomfortable with the idea.

Do the mixed messages from Cuba's current and former presidents reflect the communist leadership's resistance to moving too quickly? Or are they a ploy for leverage ahead of any talks?

As the White House ponders its next move, the question of who calls the shots in Cuba is less clear than ever.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton described the delicate situation in comments to Congress on Wednesday, saying the Obama administration needs to be ready to

North Korea last week expelled all international monitors of its plutonium-producing facilities, vowed to restart them and quit six-nation disarmament talks, after the U.N. Security Council condemned its April 5 rocket launch and called for expanded sanctions.

Pyongyang says the rebuke is unfair because the liftoff was a peaceful satellite launch. But the U.S. and others believe it was a test of long-range missile technology.

Lavrov is expected to focus on trying to persuade the North to return to the nuclear negotiating

table. South Korean and Russian media reports said he could meet with the North's reclusive leader and deliver a letter from Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei said earlier this week that the North could restart its nuclear facilities within months—a move that could lead to production of weapons-grade plutonium.

North Korea's relations are not as close with Russia as they were during Soviet times, but the two sides maintain cordial ties. Mos-

cow is a member of the six-party nuclear talks and usually avoids openly criticizing Pyongyang.

"A threat of sanctions to North Korea is counterproductive," ITAR-Tass quoted Lavrov as saying, without specifying the time or place of his comments.

He also said all the parties in the nuclear talks should stick to their obligations. "There are commitments taken by North Korea and there are commitments taken by the other participants in the six-way talks," Lavrov said, according to ITAR-Tass.

Militants burn NATO fuel tankers in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Dozens of militants armed with guns and gasoline bombs attacked a truck terminal in northwestern Pakistan on Thursday and burned five tanker trucks carrying fuel to NATO troops in Afghanistan, police said.

NATO and U.S. commanders are seeking alternative transport routes into landlocked Afghanistan amid mounting assaults on the critical main supply line through Pakistan.

Militants attacked the truck depot near the city of Peshawar before dawn, hurling gasoline bombs which set fire to the five tankers, said Abdul Khan, a local police official.

Security guards fled and the assailants made their escape be-

fore police arrived, Khan said. Several truckers drove their vehicles out of the terminal to save them from the flames, which were later doused by firefighters, he said.

NATO and the U.S. military insist that their losses on the transport route remain minimal and have had no impact on their expanding operations in Afghanistan. Most of the fuel for U.S. troops in Afghanistan comes from Central Asia.

However, a series of attacks on terminals as well as on convoys heading through the nearby Khyber Pass into Afghanistan have contributed to concern that militants could paralyze or even seize control of northwestern Pakistan.

WORLD BRIEFS

RP governor orders Red Cross hostage rescued

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine governor ordered troops Wednesday to rescue an ailing Italian Red Cross worker held by al-Qaida-linked militants for more than three months in their southern jungle stronghold. Negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf militants were going nowhere and there was concern over the deteriorating condition of Eugenio Vagni, the last of three Red Cross hostages, who was suffering from hypertension and needed surgery for a hernia, Sulu provincial Gov. Abdusakur Tan said. "We made this decision because of Mr. Vagni's condition," Tan told The Associated Press by telephone. "The primary purpose is to save him." The governor didn't announce a timeframe, and the move could be an attempt to pressure the group to release the aid worker. Police clashed with a separate group of about 30 to 50 Abu Sayyaf gunmen in Jolo's Talipao township, near Indanan where Vagni was believed to be held.

SAfrica president's dilemma: 2 wives, 1 first lady

KWANXAMALALA, South Africa (AP)—There's little question who will lead South Africa after Wednesday's national election. The real mystery lies in who will be the country's first lady. As Jacob Zuma, the man preordained to be the country's next president, voted in his rural Zulu homeland Wednesday, one of his two current wives stood to the side watching patiently as he was mobbed by cheering crowds and reporters. But Nompumelelo Ntuli, 34, Zuma's newest and youngest wife, was soon attracting her own crowd of admirers. Women whispered, "Isn't she beautiful?" as Ntuli decked out in an apricot and blue tie-dye outfit beamed happily. "Jesus is Lord!" is all she would say in response to questions. Zuma, 67, a Zulu traditionalist and an unabashed polygamist, has married at least four women over the years. Only two are still with him: Sizakele Khumalo, whom he married in 1973, and Ntuli, who he wed last year.

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1st floor, Comete Center, Garapan
Opens at 11:00 am - 10:30 pm
Tel. 233-9194 or 233-9196

Science & Technology

Black-and-white printing goes green with soy toner



SPARTA, Wis. (AP)—Every time you print out a page on a laser printer you're using toner made from petroleum-based products. Now there's a greener choice that shows promise: a toner product derived from soybean oil.

While some customers might be wary, potential benefits are clear. It's easier to recycle paper printed with soy. And perhaps more important in a sour economy, soy toners can cost less than the standard alternative. Soybeans are a renewable resource whose price is likely to be more stable than that of oil.

Newspaper, magazine and book publishers have shifted to soy-based ink in recent years.

Early results suggest soy toners work as advertised. In a recent test involving identical documents from two identical printers—one with a new Hewlett-Packard cartridge and the other a soy cartridge—the printouts were indistinguishable, equally dark and smudge-proof.

The soy cartridge was supplied by PRC Technologies, a division of Print Recovery Concepts Inc. in Standish, Maine. Rick Greenlaw, the company's

vice president of marketing, said its goal was to make sure soy toners were cheaper than traditional ones.

"Our interest is in the person willing to go green as long as it doesn't cost them more. Period," he said.

One of SoyPrint's biggest distributors is LaserMonks-Green, a Web site operated by Cistercian monks of Our Lady of Spring Bank in Sparta, Wis. The group says it makes enough money to run the abbey and donates the rest to charity. For every cartridge of soy toner it sells, LaserMonksGreen has a tree planted in Brazil and donates \$1 to a world hunger organization. The monks also pray for customers.

LaserMonksGreen sells soy toner in cartridges that fit into an HP printer just like the originals. The soy versions can cost about 20 percent less than new HP cartridges, although remanufactured cartridges that have been refilled with traditional toner can be even less expensive than SoyPrint.

For example, OfficeDepot.com sells a Q5942X cartridge for HP printers for \$249. A

SoyPrint alternative is \$181. A remanufactured version with regular toner is \$120.

(The soy toner is a dry powder that works in laser printers. There's no equivalent product for ink-jet printers.)

So far, larger companies that produce petroleum-based toners—and derive much of their profit from toner and ink—say they're monitoring renewable materials but have no immediate plans for something comparable.

Hewlett-Packard said in a statement that its research suggested bio-based materials "have not met HP's high-performance standards and may not be appropriate for many printing applications."

Another printer maker, Lexmark International Inc., said it's in the early stages of investigating corn- and soy-based resins but wouldn't comment further.

That leaves PRC Technologies as one of the main suppliers for now. Its products are only for HP black-and-white laser-jet printers, but it plans to introduce products for other major printer brands this summer. Color cartridges are in the works.

Q: When might Apple ship the next iPhone, and what new features might it include?

A: If I had a dime for every time I got this question, I could buy quite a few iPhones with the proceeds.

But the only honest answer is, "I don't know." The first iPhone and last year's iPhone 3G arrived in July, but Apple doesn't have to stick to that pattern this year.

We can also only guess about the design of a new iPhone. More memory and a video-capable camera would be logical upgrades, but Apple has a history of surprises. (The company also plans to ship a free 3.0 software upgrade for existing iPhones this summer; the original iPhone, however, won't be able to use all of this upgrade's features, and iPod touch users will need to pay \$10 for it.)

The odds of a just-purchased iPhone being made obsolete

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Pegoraro attempts to untangle computing conundrums and errant electronics each week. Send questions to robp@washpost.com.



by a successor's arrival probably increase as you get closer to summer, so waiting might avoid that—and keep some money in your bank account in the meantime. But there's little point in freaking yourself out about those chances; if you need a new phone, you need a new phone.

■■■

Q: When I tried to download Adobe Reader 9, Internet Explorer displayed a box that said, "Can't retrieve essential parameter (15235.301.265)" before closing on me.

A: This problem may be the fault of Adobe's too-cute presentation of its Portable Document Format reader. The "Download" link at its site (adobe.com/reader) does not start a download but instead takes you to a second page that initiates the file transfer on its own. Internet Explorer, in turn, warns you that the site wants to send a file you didn't explicitly request—but here, something else went wrong.

You can avoid that by clicking that second page's "click here to download" link or by using a different browser for this task.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Screams, gunshots bring police—to TV program

BARTLETT, Tenn. (AP)—There were screams, then two gunshots, then a call to police from a quiet cove in the Memphis suburban city of Bartlett. A half-dozen police cars responded to the dispatch Tuesday morning while dispatchers checked to see if there had been previous police responses to the home. The Commercial Appeal reported that police found an open window, which explained why a neighbor thought there was mischief afoot. An officer at the scene said a man inside the house was watching television and had the volume turned up very high.

Ark. man digging in garden unearths cannonball

FORT SMITH, Ark. (AP)—Officials say a Fort Smith man digging in his garden unearthed a Civil War-era cannonball that's possibly still explosive. The unidentified man was tending to his garden Tuesday at his home when he found the rusted, 4-inch-diameter iron ball. Bill Black, the park superintendent of the Fort Smith National Historic Site, said the cannonball appears to be a live round that's about 145 years old. Fort Smith Fire Department officials plan to shoot at the cannonball with a shaped charge, which will either detonate the round, break it open or put a hole in it. Black said he hopes to keep the remnants at the Fort Smith National Historic Site. There were a number of Civil War engagements in and around Fort Smith, including the Battle of Massard Prairie.

Postal worker accused of stealing 'breakup book'

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A Pittsburgh postal worker faces up to 10 years in prison if she's convicted of stealing two items of dubious value from the mail: \$25, and a book on a woman's perspective of breaking up with men. Postal inspectors said Kathleen Evans, 49, stole the money from a greeting card. The book she allegedly stole from a package is called "It's Called a Breakup Because It's Broken." The book offers advice to women who have just ended relationships. Postal officials could not immediately comment on Evans' employment status. She allegedly stole the items last April.

Man tries to attack cops with ax, knife, sword

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Authorities said a motel guest tried to scare off deputies with a medieval battle ax, a knife and a long sword. The Bay County Sheriff's Office reported that deputies responded to the Sting Ray Motel Tuesday morning after management called 911 to complain that a guest was acting strange. When a deputy stepped out of his patrol car, officials said a 33-year-old man threw a battle ax and then a 6-inch knife through the window of the motel room. Deputies said the man then pulled out a broad sword and locked himself in the bathroom. When deputies finally got into the bathroom, they said he was unconscious. The man was taken to a nearby hospital. Officials said the man will be charged with aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer.

NYC prosecutors: Dad robs, mom drives, kids ride

NEW YORK (AP)—Prosecutors said a New York City dad and another man robbed homes while his girlfriend drove the getaway minivan with the kids in tow. The three pleaded not guilty Wednesday to burglary and weapon charges. The Queens district attorney's office said a witness saw the blue minivan outside his home Monday with a woman in the driver's seat and

the two men going out his front door. His sister's apartment in the home had been broken into. A handheld game and \$1,500 were stolen. A police officer saw the same minivan later and arrested the three after seeing the men break into another apartment, prosecutors said. A 5-month-old and a 4-year-old were in the minivan with the woman at the time.

Cops: Pregnant woman tries to rob bank, gets call

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—Police are looking for a pregnant woman they say tried to rob a North Carolina bank at gunpoint but left empty-handed after answering her cell phone. Fayetteville police spokeswoman Teresa Chance said Wednesday the woman had a handgun and demanded money when she entered a Carter Bank & Trust branch at 9:43 a.m. Tuesday. But she got distracted when her cell phone rang. Police said she began talking to the caller and left the bank without taking any money. No one was hurt. Chance said investigators talked to a teller who heard the woman but aren't releasing details. Police said the woman is in her late 20s to early 30s. She wore a dark, knee-length skirt and had a multicolored scarf or bandanna on her head.

Detroit woman's underwire bra deflects bullet

DETROIT (AP)—The metal underwire in a Detroit woman's bra was credited with deflecting a bullet fired at her during a break-in at a neighbor's home. Detroit police Officer Leon Rahmaan said the 57-year-old woman apparently looked out her window Tuesday when one of three men fired the shot. He said the slug smashed through her window pane before hitting the bra's underwire. It did not penetrate her skin. Police said she may have gone to the window after a burglar alarm at the house next door sounded. Her neighbor was not at home at the time. The suspects drove away after the shooting.

Cops: Woman faked miscarriage with 'animal tissue'

OAKLAND PARK, Fla. (AP)—Deputies said a woman in South Florida has faked a miscarriage. The Broward county Sheriff's Office responded an emergency call of a possible miscarriage just before 8 a.m. Tuesday at an Oakland Park apartment. Upon arrival, they learned a woman staged the incident using what authorities described only as "animal tissue." Detectives are finished with the case, but prosecutors may charge the woman with lying to authorities.

Minn. surgeon needs two tries to remove appendix

SHAKOPEE, Minn. (AP)—A state investigative report said a surgeon performed an appendectomy on the same patient twice after he mistakenly removed a piece of fatty tissue instead of the first time. The Star Tribune reported that the surgeon realized his mistake two days after the first operation after a hospital pathologist reported what was removed was "not an appendix." The patient had been complaining of pain and fever and was ordered back for a second surgery. The by now ruptured appendix was removed, after which the unidentified patient spent 11 days in the hospital with complications from the second surgery. The Health Department found no evidence the hospital did anything wrong. Complaints against doctors are handled by a separate state agency. The Board of Medical Practice isn't commenting on the case.

Life & Style

2 'American Idol' finalists rolled off competition

DioGuardi on being an Idol judge: It's not easy

By ERIN CARLSON
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—When Kara DioGuardi accepted her job as the fourth judge on "American Idol," she did not immediately grasp the enormity of a full-time gig on the most-watched TV show in the nation.

"I probably in my own way didn't really take in what a huge thing it was, just 'cause it would be so overwhelming," she said. "Until I kind of showed up and was like, 'Omgod, what am I doing here? This is, like, huge!' And then it really hit me when we went live that, wow, 'I got to speak live in front of 30 million people?'"

Since joining the judges' panel, DioGuardi has weathered the curve balls of live television, eye rolls from Simon Cowell and criticism of her judging abilities by the viewer peanut gallery. As the eighth season progresses to a showdown between Adam Lambert and Someone Else, the 38-year-old songwriter and producer's "saving grace" has been connecting with the finalists and helping steer them in the right direction, by way of her industry expertise.

"It's not an easy job," DioGuardi said in an interview from Los Angeles. "I mean, there was nothing wrong with that panel. It wasn't like I had to fix something. It was great. So to come in and kind of be part of it was really tricky...."

"So I look at it sometimes and I think, 'All right, maybe I could have done this better or that better,' but I'm literally just trying not to" act like "a bumbling moron because I'm so, you know, nervous at times," she said.

Adding a fourth judge to the veteran threesome of Paula Abdul, Randy Jackson and Cowell was part of series of changes producers implemented this season to shake up the franchise. A 13th contestant, picked in a wild card round, joined the top dozen. A one-time rule allowed judges to save contestant Matt Giraud from voter elimination.

And—in an "Idol" first—only two judges were allowed to review a singer last Tuesday to save time. The show has been running over schedule, which Cowell blamed on DioGuardi and Abdul talking too much.

"Of course, we're going to have time issues—you added



DioGuardi

a fourth judge! What did you think? I was going to just sit there and, you know, like do a grading system on my hands? Which probably I would mess up because you know how my remedial math is," DioGuardi joked, referring to the now-classic blunder she made while reviewing Lambert ("I've got six words for you: One of the best performances of the night!").

Cecile Frot-Coutaz, an executive producer on "Idol," said producers envisioned a fourth judge could create a time crunch.

"It's hard for (the judges) to figure out whether they've spoken for 30 seconds or 45 seconds, so ... we're going to try and help them with that and give them a sense of their timing so that we keep it under control a bit more," Frot-Coutaz said.

DioGuardi, whose criticism can be as long-winded as Cowell's is blunt, said she's making an effort to cut her comments short. She seems to have scaled back in the last couple weeks.

Her remarks are generally rife with musical jargon (especially "artistry") and she has been an unwitting target of hecklers in the studio audience. Recently, cast-off Megan Corkey's brother shouted: "Broken record!"

"Kara's opinion is so irrelevant that I don't think people even listen to it," said Dave Della Terza, founder of VoteForTheWorst.com, which encourages "Idol" viewers to vote for bad-yet-entertaining singers. He derided DioGuardi as humorless and unskilled at thinking on her feet.

DioGuardi, who has worked with such singers as Christina Aguilera, Celine Dion and Kelly Clarkson, said she tries to tune out the negativity and focus on her goal: "to help America find the best 'Idol' and to help these kids."

It's clear she takes her job very seriously. In conversation, she offered unprompted, thoughtful analyses of various finalists; she often schedules one-on-one advising sessions with hopefuls after they get voted off.

As for her recent on-camera gaffes, including a reference to the legendary New York club Studio 54 as "Studio 57," she said: "It's OK. I'll poke fun at myself and I'll look like an idiot on that front. But I want to make sure that what I'm telling them makes sense and it has meaning."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Idol" finalists Lil Rounds and Anoop Desai aren't closer to becoming household names. Both singers were dismissed Wednesday after it was revealed they received the fewest number of viewer votes on the popular Fox singing competition.

"I'm so really disappointed," Desai said after his ouster. "I really am."

The third lowest vote-getter after this week's disco-themed performances was Allison Iraheta. For the past several weeks, the judges have not been favor-

able to Rounds, the 24-year-old mother of three from Memphis, or Desai, the 22-year-old college student from Chapel Hill, N.C.

While the panel seemed to prefer Desai's rendition of Donna Summers' "Dim All the Lights," judge Simon Cowell called Rounds' performance of Chaka Khan's "I'm Every Woman" a "mess."

"I'm actually going to miss your family screaming at us every week," Cowell told Rounds after she was eliminated.

The acerbic judge correctly predicted Rounds would be

dismissed following her performance Tuesday. The once adored R&B crooner, who originally wowed the panel with Stevie Wonder's "All I Do" at her audition, had been dubbed a copycat by the judges for the past several weeks. Desai had also fallen from grace after being selected as the judges' final wild card pick.

Two finalists were sent packing Wednesday—instead of the usual one—because the judges' used their new one-time-only power to save Matt Giraud from elimination last week.



Desai

Before the double dismissal, the seven finalists donned bell bottoms and shades to perform a group number of The Jacksons' "Shake Your Body (Down to the Ground)," which was choreographed by Paula Abdul.

The five singers remaining in the competition are Iraheta, Giraud, Kris Allen, Danny Gokey and Adam Lambert. Another finalist will be booted next week.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

We the family of the late

†CRISTIN CABRERA DUEÑAS

Better known as "Ting"

wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our greatest and most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comfort, and unending support and other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and may time lessen our pain as memories gently turn tears to smiles. We acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted to us, your kindness has touched us all and we will forever remember you. May God bless us all.

Masen magof ham in ekstende un sinceru yan dangkulu na si Yu'us Ma'ase I familia yan manatungo siha pot I tinayuyot yan finatton-miyu diurante I pinitenmami. Todu I tiempo bai hahasso hamyo gi tinayuyot-mami ni filian I dinfuntu as

†Cristin Cabrera Duenas.



Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Wife: Joaquina R. Santos

Children: Erica, Ernesta, Cristin Jr., Maynard, Ryan, Darrell, Joshua, Tanya, Jolene and Family

Police: No evidence against dad of 'Slumdog' star

MUMBAI, India (AP)—Indian police said Wednesday they have so far found no evidence that the father of a child star in the Oscar-winning film "Slumdog Millionaire" tried to sell the 9-year-old girl to an undercover reporter.

Police opened an investigation following a complaint from Khurshid Begum, the estranged mother of "Slumdog Millionaire" star Rubina Ali, after News of the World reported the father planned to put her up for adoption. The British newspaper said the deal was allegedly offered to one of its reporters posing as a sheik from the Mideast.

But officers said so far they found nothing to back the claim of the British tabloid that the father, Rafiq Qureshi, offered to give up Ali for adoption in exchange for some \$400,000.

"We have interrogated Rubina's father at length and have not found any evidence against him indicating that he was trying to sell Rubina," said senior police officer Nishar Tamboli.

However, he said the investigation was still going on.

Rahim Sheik, the police officer leading the probe, said television footage of the incident obtained by Mumbai police also did not incriminate Qureshi.

It was not immediately clear if police had access to footage beyond that posted on the Web site of the newspaper.

The newspaper-owned



This Sunday, April 19, 2009 photo shows 'Slumdog Millionaire' actor Rubina Ali, left, leaving the police station along with her father Rafiq Qureshi, right, in Mumbai, India.

by News International Ltd., the main British subsidiary of News Corp., which also owns "Slumdog" distributor Fox Searchlight Pictures—said the father was demanding millions of rupees for the girl.

The newspaper quoted Qureshi as saying that Hollywood was to blame for forcing

him to give her up for adoption.

"We've got nothing out of this film," Rafiq Qureshi was quoted as saying. "I have to consider what's best for me, my family and Rubina's future."

Qureshi has denied the report, saying he had been lured to a fancy Mumbai hotel by someone claiming they were

moved by Rubina's story and wanted to help her.

The accusations further complicated the lives of the families of the slum-dwelling child stars, who have come under intense scrutiny since the movie skyrocketed to Oscar-winning fame and grossed more than \$300 million worldwide.

Following the success of the rags-to-riches tale, some criticized the filmmakers for failing to share the wealth with Mumbai's millions of slum dwellers. Others accused them of exploiting two of the child stars, Rubina and Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, 10, who grew up in a wretched Mumbai slum.

The filmmakers' initial efforts to help their families were thwarted by media attention, the changing demands of relatives and the film's runaway success. Sudden fame and relative fortune also complicated relations between the actors and their neighbors.

The filmmakers feared if they gave the families a lump sum, the money would be squandered or extorted. Instead, they set up a trust fund for the two children that was supposed to provide them with a good education, adequate housing and social support.

Last week they also announced a donation of \$747,500 to a charity devoted to improving the lives of street children in Mumbai.

Fifth Death Anniversary

Margarita Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan Flores Kintol

(Lovingly known as "Auntie Mag")

"Time has come and gone;
memories live on."

In remembrance of her new life with our Creator, we the children, together with our families, brothers and sisters and our families, invite our relatives and friends to join us as we commemorate the Fifth Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Masses of intentions also for John Derek Flores will be celebrated daily at 6:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning Saturday, April 25, 2009 through Sunday, May 3, 2009.

On Saturday, May 2, 2009, Memorial Mass will be offered at 6:00 a.m. and appreciation breakfast will be served immediately at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

Your thoughts, prayers and presence at the masses are greatly appreciated.

Dangkulu Na Si Yu's Ma'a'e
The Family

The gift from the Chicago Sun-Times critic, known for his "thumbs up" and "thumbs down" reviews, was announced Wednesday during the 11th annual Roger Ebert's Film Festival in Champaign, also known as "Ebertfest."

"The University of Illinois is deep in my heart as a great institution," Ebert said in a statement. "It informed and enriched me. Although there were no film courses when I was an undergraduate, it nevertheless guided me in my life-long love of film. I hope when this program and center are fully realized, they will inspire new generations."



Ebert



In this March 28, 2009 file photo, Spencer Pratt, right, and Heidi Montag arrive at Perez Hilton's 31st Birthday Party in West Hollywood, Calif. AP

MTV preparing to film Montag, Pratt nuptials

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Will they or won't they—again?

Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt, the reality-TV couple whose on-again, off-again relationship has been chronicled by MTV's "The Hills," weren't present at a panel celebrating the series Tuesday night because they're preparing for their Saturday wedding, the show's executive producers told the crowd at the William S. Paley Television Festival.

"It's a big gigantic event that takes the two of them to pull off," said Adam DiVello.

"And a white dress," added Liz Gateley.

DiVello said the show's crew was preparing to film the event. It won't be the first time that Montag, 22, and Pratt, 25, have attempted to tie the knot on camera. The pair appeared before a deputy commissioner at a Beverly Hills courthouse last December—but didn't say "I do"—after acknowledging their Nov. 19 marriage ceremony in Mexico was only symbolic.

Of those "Hills" cast members present at the PaleyFest panel—Lauren Conrad, Whitney Port, Audrina Patridge, Brody Jenner, Lauren "Lo" Bosworth and Stephanie

Pratt—many said they were invited to the ceremony, but it was unclear who would actually show up on Saturday.

Before the panel, "Hills" star Conrad said she was invited but would not attend.

"I think that it was very nice of her to invite, but I think that she didn't really expect me to come," she said.

The guest list wasn't the only thing in question. Los Angeles county records indicated Wednesday that Pratt or Montag have yet to receive a marriage license, but the couple could have opted for a confidential license, which exempts it from public-record searches. During weekdays, marriage licenses can be issued on the same day in Los Angeles.

Other tidbits uncovered during the panel: Crew members said they often make deals with the paparazzi so they can film the show in peace, and producers said they're in negotiations for another season of the show, which may or may not feature Conrad, who stated she was finished with "The Hills."

"We're hoping if we do, Lauren will miss it so much that she'll want to come back," said Gateley.

Colbert: Does Bill Gates ever talk about me?

SEATTLE (AP)—Stephen Colbert had an important question for an official with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: "Does Bill Gates ever talk about me?"

The host of Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report" helped announce a \$4.1 million donation from the foundation to donorschoose.org at a New York City high school Tuesday. Colbert is a board member of donorschoose,

a Web site where teachers seek money for student projects and donors choose which projects they want to support.

Colbert pushed his real-life cause as he mentioned one that has long been the obsession of his fake-news-host persona: "As I endeavor to protect our children from bears,

donorschoose.org is protecting public school kids from classrooms that lack the materials necessary to rigorously prepare them for college."

The donation by the Seattle-based foundation, headed by

Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife, Melinda, will cover half the cost of projects that promote college readiness among students in high-need and underserved public schools. The grant is expected to help support more than 17,000 classroom projects across the nation.

Vicki Phillips, director of the education program at the Gates Foundation, expressed hope that the partnership will give citizen donors more incentive to help public school teachers.



Colbert

Summer lovin': Male perspectives in movie romance

LOS ANGELES (AP)—During the summer, romantic movies—comedic or otherwise—have usually been just “he said, she said” counterprogramming to all the robots and superheroes blasting the box office. This season, what “he” said is getting more screen time.

The focus in “Ghosts of Girlfriends Past” is on Matthew McConaughey as a philandering photographer who is visited by the spirits of his past trysts—all the way back to his first love (played by Jennifer Garner). It was new ground for McConaughey, who democratically tussled with Kate Hudson on screen in “Fool’s Gold” and “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days.”

“Usually in romantic comedies, the girl has the guy by the leash,” said McConaughey. “This story isn’t a battle of the sexes. It’s not about me and Jennifer Garner going back and forth, back and forth. Something I’ve strived for is to find comedy in not being the guy who thinks he has everything figured out, but being the guy who figures out he doesn’t.”

In “Management,” Steve Zahn plays an aimless motel manager who falls so deeply for a traveling corporate art saleswoman played by Jennifer Aniston that he follows her around the country after their fling in



In this film publicity image released by Fox Searchlight films, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, left, and Zooey Deschanel are shown in a scene from, “500 Days of Summer.”

the motel’s laundry room. Zahn said he thinks “Management” is more like 1989’s “Say Anything” than a typical modern romantic comedy.

“Most guys have pretense, and we walk around thinking we’re John Travolta in ‘Saturday Night Fever,’” said Zahn. “We’re not. We’re actually kind of idiots, but I felt this guy was accessible and vulnerable but also very honest and real. He says exactly what is on his mind when he says it. I’d never really read a character like that before.”

Also taking an over-the-top shot at love is Dennis Coover-

man (Paul Rust) in “I Love You, Beth Cooper.” During his graduation speech, the nerdy valedictorian nervously professes his love for the most popular girl in school, Beth Cooper (Hayden Panettiere). Much to his surprise, she shows up at his door later than night for a crazy night out on the town.

“The central mystery of this movie is, ‘Who is this person, Beth Cooper?’” said Larry Doyle, who wrote the screenplay and 2007 book. “Dennis learns she isn’t who he thought she was over the course of the night. I could have presented

her as a complete person upfront, but then the book and the movie would’ve just been about

a wild night after graduation.”

While the nerd and cheerleader only have one night together, Joseph Gordon-Levitt has “500 Days of Summer.” In the offbeat time-bending romantic comedy, Gordon-Levitt plays a lovesick greeting card writer named Tom who has a monumental on-again, off-again relationship with his boss’ freethinking assistant Summer (Zooey Deschanel) over a year and a half.

“Most of what Hollywood presents as love is false,” said Gordon-Levitt. “It’s pandering to an audience. It basically tells the audience what they want to hear instead of telling them the truth. I’m proud of ‘500 Days of Summer’ because I don’t think it does that. I think it’s an honest look at what it is to be in love and fall out of love.”

Other romantic highlights

for summer 2009:

■ “Love N’ Dancing”: Sparks fly and hips shake when a married schoolteacher who thinks she can dance (Amy Smart) unexpectedly finds love with her deaf dancing instructor (Tom Malloy) who has retired from ballroom competition.

■ “Easy Virtue”: Jessica Biel goes across the pond in this 1920s-set comedy about a gaudy American gal who marries an Englishman (Ben Barnes)—much to the dismay of his stuffy British parents (Kristin Scott Thomas and Colin Firth).

■ “The Brothers Bloom”: Con-artist siblings (Adrien Brody and Mark Ruffalo) attempt to swindle a reclusive heiress (Rachel Weisz), but one of the brothers falls for the eccentric woman during their around-the-world adventure.

Miss California to appear at gospel music awards



AP
Miss North Carolina Kristen Dalton, left, and first runner-up Miss California Carrie Prejean from San Diego react after Dalton is announced Miss USA, Sunday April 19, 2009 in Las Vegas.

‘Millionaire’ (and Regis) back on ABC this summer

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC is reviving “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire” this summer, complete with host Regis Philbin.

A decade after “Millionaire” became a smash hit, it will return to prime time as an 11-night event, says ABC. It premieres Aug. 9, concluding Aug. 23.

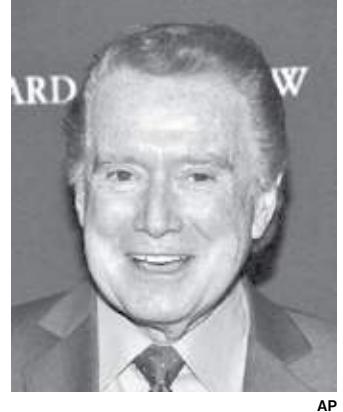
The quiz show burst on the U.S. scene in August 1999. Philbin coined an instant catch phrase by asking his contestants,

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Miss California Carrie Prejean (pray-ZHAWN?) is keeping with the Christian theme by scheduling an appearance at the upcoming Gospel Music Association’s Dove Awards.

Prejean has drawn attention for her comments against gay marriage at the Miss USA pageant, where she was first runner-up last weekend.

A spokeswoman for the beauty queen says she’ll introduce a performance by Mercy Me of their hit “I Can Only Imagine” on Thursday night. The Dove Awards will air live from Nashville on the Gospel Music Channel beginning 8 p.m. Eastern.

During Sunday’s Miss USA pageant, Prejean said in response to a question from celebrity blogger Perez Hilton that she believes “marriage should be between a man and a woman.”



In this Jan. 14, 2009 file photo, Regis Philbin attends the 2008 National Board of Review of Motion Pictures awards gala in New York.

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Fighting

Friday 4:15 7:30 10:00
 Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:30 10:00
 Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30

Channing Tatum, Terrence Howard
 Urban, Crime • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Small-town boy Shawn MacArthur has come to New York City with nothing. Barely earning a living selling counterfeit goods on the streets, his luck changes when scam artist Harvey Boarden sees that he has a natural talent for streetfighting. When Harvey offers Shawn help at making the real cash, the two form an uneasy partnership. As Shawn’s manager, Harvey introduces him to the corrupt bare-knuckle circuit, where rich men bet on disposable pawns.



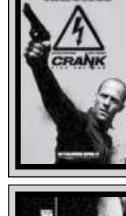
17 Again

Friday 4:00 7:05 9:30
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:05 9:30
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:05
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:05

Zac Efron, Leslie Mann
 Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A middle-aged father wakes up to find he’s seventeen again. So, he enrolls in the same high school as his children to be close to them. And in trying to recapture his best years, Mike could lose the best things that ever happened to him.



Crank: High Voltage

Friday 4:10 7:25 9:55
 Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:25 9:55
 Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:25
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:25

Jason Statham, Amy Smart
 Action, Thriller, Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Hitman Chev Chelios is kidnapped by a mysterious Chinese mobster. Three months later, he wakes up to discover his nearly indestructible heart has been surgically removed and replaced with a battery-operated ticker that requires regular jolts of electricity in order to work. After a dangerous escape from his captors, Chev is on the run again, this time from the charismatic Mexican gang boss El Huron and the Chinese Triads, headed by the dangerous 100 year-old elder Poon Dong.



State of Play

Friday 4:20 7:10 9:45
 Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:10 9:45
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:10
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10

Russel Crowe, Ben Affleck
 Drama, Political • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

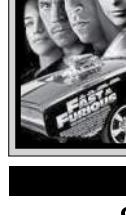
Friday 4:30 7:15 9:40
 Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:40
 Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:15
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:15

John Lloyd Cruz, Sarah Geronimo
 Romance, Comedy • Rated NR

You Changed My Life

Friday 4:30 7:15 9:40
 Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:40
 Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:15
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:15

Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie
 Action, Comedy, Animated • Rated PG



Fast & Furious

Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50
 Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50
 Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
 Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Monsters vs. Aliens

Friday 4:05 7:00 9:35
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:00 9:35
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:00
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:00

Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie
 Action, Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

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Parents' absence is leaving a hole in little girl's life

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a nanny and have been for three years. The 10-year-old girl I work with is wonderful, and I love her dearly. Her parents are not abusive, but they are caught up in their own lives. They devote very little time or effort to their daughter.

The only thing my employers ever talk to her about is school (she's an A student) and academics. When they are home they spend very little time with her. They never buy her even tiny gifts "just because"—only when she brings home A's does she get gifts. Of course she is upset by this. She confides in me, to the point of tears.

How can I get her parents to take an active role in her life? I know better than to tell a parent how to be a parent, but they are slowly scarring their daughter and making her resent them. I know they love her, but their parenting makes her feel unlovable.



Dear Abby

NANNY IN NEW YORK

DEAR NANNY: Loneliness is the ultimate poverty. For all of her financial advantages, that girl is emotionally starved and for good reason. Her parents appear to be so self-involved they give her only the bare minimum and have handed that "chore" off to you. I'm sad to say what they are doing will have ramifications for their daughter in the future.

Whether you can change their pattern of behavior is open to question. You can try by telling them their daughter "needs more of them" and suggest that ALL of you spend an afternoon/evening together occasionally, so the unaccustomed "burden" won't be too heavy for them. But if they can't or won't devote the time, she should be involved in extracurricular activities that will get her out of the house—things like sports and classes in music, dance, drama, etc.—which will give her more positive feedback and less time to brood.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a junior in high school and have never had any romantic experience. It wasn't a big deal when I was a freshman, but now as the prom approaches, I'm starting to get anxious about the possibility of being dateless.

My friend "Terri" says you don't have to have a date, but I am still skeptical. Although it might be fun going with Terri and other friends, who am I supposed to share a slow dance with? I'd feel awkward sitting there while everyone else danced. And I would feel uncomfortable if a guy I didn't know asked me to dance.

If I give up on the idea of going, I might miss a special night, but could also be avoiding a potentially embarrassing situation. What's your advice?

UNDECIDED TEEN

DEAR UNDECIDED: Stop worrying about what "might" happen, go to the prom with your friends and keep an open mind. If you aren't asked to dance, look around and you'll probably see others who haven't been asked, either. Talk to them. I'm sure they'll be glad for the company.

If someone you don't know asks you to dance, it means he thinks you're attractive. That's a compliment. So smile, be polite and dance with him. If he's not your dream partner, remember it's only a dance—not a marriage proposal.

Unless you're willing to take some risks and put yourself out there, you will never get any romantic experience.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by *Dear Abby*." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Schwarzenegger says his 'Terminator' might be back

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Arnold Schwarzenegger might be back as the Terminator after all, despite his day job as California governor.

Schwarzenegger confirmed in a Webcast interview that his image might appear in next month's "Terminator: Salvation," the fourth movie in the franchise about a showdown between humanity and machines.

The governor says he made it clear he had no time to shoot new footage but that the filmmakers are playing with technology to



insert his image from the earlier "Terminator" movies.

Schwarzenegger says he told director McG he will come to the premiere of the movie, which stars Christian Bale as leader of the human resistance against machine conquerors.

In this March 20, 2009 file photo, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appears at a news conference outside of the West Wing of the White House in Washington.

AP

Nearly 3 in 10 say Fox News too tough on Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—Nearly three in 10 Americans say Fox News Channel has been too critical of President Barack Obama. Pollsters for the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press found a partisan divide. Forty-four percent of Democrats say Fox has been too tough on Obama, while 18 percent of Republicans said that.

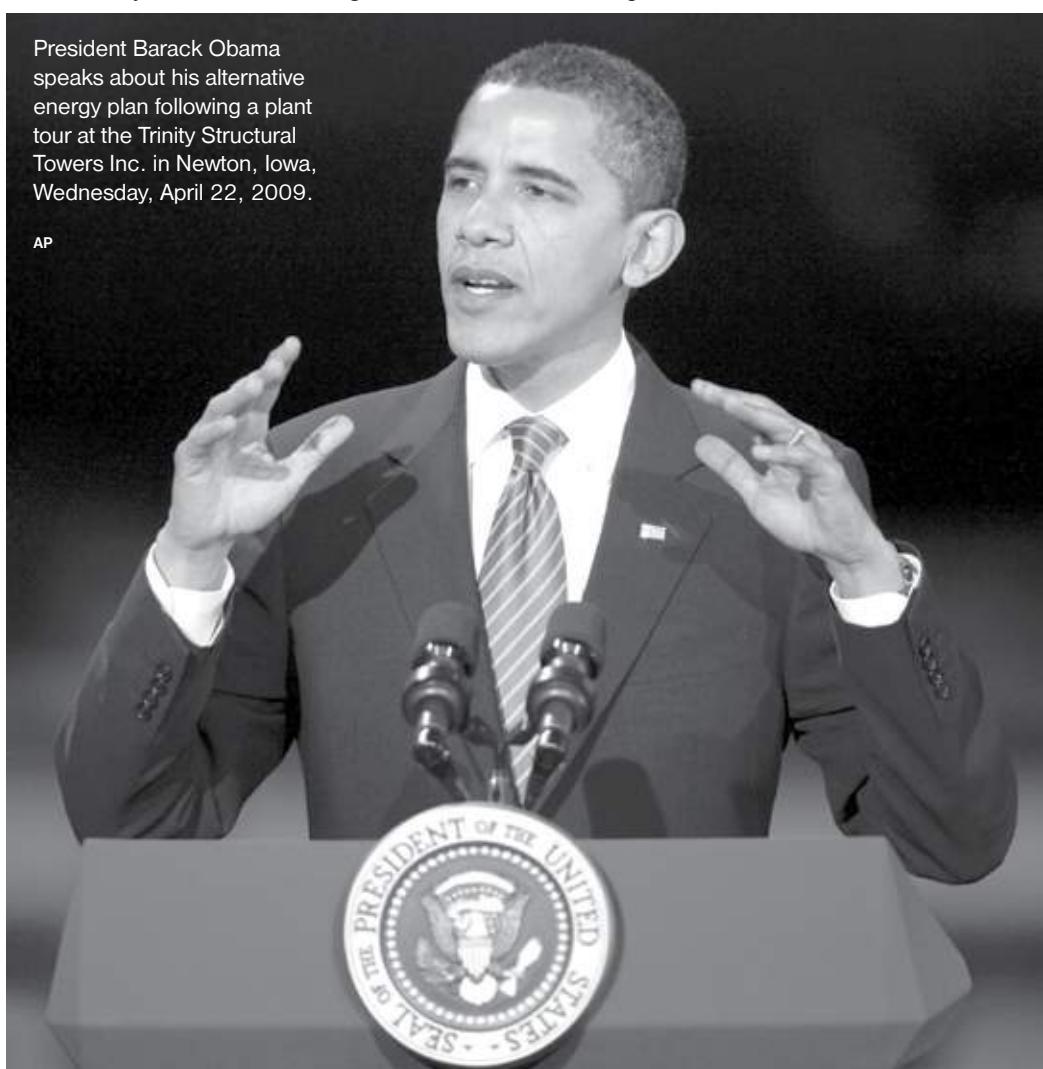
Either way, Fox has a winning formula: Fox

News has solidified its hold on first place in the ratings since Obama took office, with Bill O'Reilly and Glenn Beck's shows doing particularly well.

Although MSNBC has positioned itself as a left-leaning network in prime time and CNN says it tries to be nonpartisan, an identical 16 percent of Americans each found those networks too easy on the new president.

President Barack Obama speaks about his alternative energy plan following a plant tour at the Trinity Structural Towers Inc. in Newton, Iowa, Wednesday, April 22, 2009.

AP



Prize-winning writer Breslin's daughter dies in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—The daughter of writer Jimmy Breslin has died after collapsing at a New York City restaurant four days earlier.

Bellevue Hospital Center spokesman Stephen Bohlen says Kelly Breslin died at the hospital Tuesday night. The cause

was not immediately known.

The 44-year-old woman had no pulse and wasn't breathing after she passed out at L'Express restaurant last Friday. She was with three friends. Owner Simon Oren said a doctor at a nearby table performed CPR while staff called 911.

The 79-year-old Breslin is an author and has worked as a columnist for Newsday, the New York Daily News and New York magazine. He won a Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1986.

Another daughter, Rosemary Breslin, died in 2004 at the age of 47 from a rare blood disease.

Guthrie delays Kushner premiere by 1 week

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Guthrie Theater is delaying its world premiere of a new Tony Kushner play by a week.

The show—"The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures"—was scheduled to begin previews on May 9 and open on May 15.

But the Guthrie says after dis-

cussions among Kushner, director Michael Greif and Guthrie director Joe Dowling, it was decided to delay the opening to give the actors more time on stage.

Previews will now start May 15 and the show will open May 22. Ticketholders for shows before May 15 will be contacted and offered a chance to reschedule later in the run, which

goes through June 28. The new Kushner play is the centerpiece of a two-month celebration at the Guthrie of the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright's work.

This May 9, 2005 file photo, playwright Tony Kushner arrives for a screening at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.



AP

In a Wednesday, May 14, 2008 file photo, Duane "Dog" Chapman listens to questions during a press conference in Honolulu.

'Dog the Bounty Hunter' shot at in Colo. Springs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Police in Colorado say shots were fired at TV bounty hunter Duane "Dog" Chapman and a bail bondsman when they tried to apprehend a man whose bail was revoked on an attempted murder charge. Colorado Springs police Sgt. Roger Vargason says the two were attempting to take 35-year-old Hoang Nguyen into custody at an apartment complex Tuesday night when Nguyen shot at them at least once with a handgun and fled on a motorcycle.

No injuries were reported.

Vargason says initial reports showed Chapman and the bondsman were armed only with paintball guns.

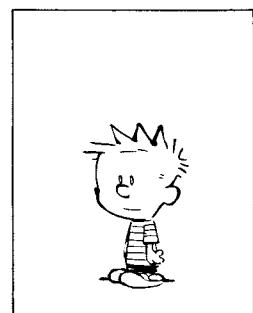
Police said Chapman apprehended Nguyen early Wednesday. He was due in court Wednesday afternoon.

Chapman is best known for the TV reality series "Dog the Bounty Hunter" on the A&E network.



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



MY HICCUPS ARE GONE! THEY FINALLY WENT AWAY ALL BY THEMSELVES! WHAT A RELIEF!



MUGHEE!

By Bill Waterson

Garfield

Garfield

By Jim Davis

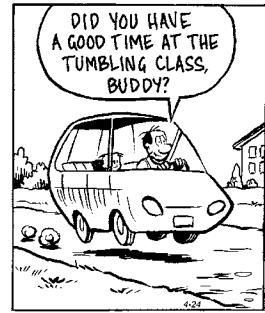


I PROMISED I WOULD FIX YOU DINNER, THOUGH, AND I DID



There's the pizza now!

Adam@home

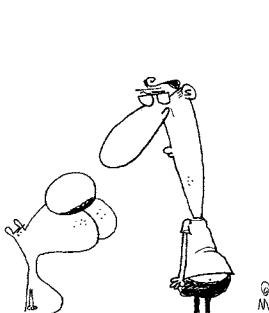


By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



© 2009 Glenn McCoy/ by Universal Press Syndicate



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	43	Squid	2	Corn	22	Islander's	24	Calendar	26	Thingie	28	Amalgamated	30	Exist	32	Not	one to	see it	through	33	Grecian	34	Wapiti	36	Tempestuous	38	Battle	39	In a	boring	way	40	"Poke-	mon"	genre	42	Show-	room	samples	45	Part of	SMU	(Abbr.)	46	Erstwhile	frosh	48	Spotted,	to Tweety	50	Rage	51	Crave																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
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CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)

	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Computer Repair

Only \$25
Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX
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USED PARTS

233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week
9:00 AM-9:00 PM

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CIVIL ENGINEER
SUBMIT RESUME TO
3K CORPORATION
OR CALL 235-2222/3333

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

House for Rent: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, full concrete. Located in Kagman III., walking distance to Kagman High School. For more information call 287-9080.

AUTOMOTIVE

1994 Ford Explorer 4X4, 46k, no rust, excellent running condition, V6, AT, AC, PS, PDL, PSEAT, AM/FM CD, alloy rims, new tires. \$4,200 or OBO. Call 989-0002 for more info.

WHATZIT Solution:
Right on cue

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BT. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BT Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Backup Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2007 FORD F-150

For more information, please contact the Joeten Motor Company at telephone number (670) 234-5562
Seals bids must be submitted to Joeten Motor Company Main office no later than

**Thursday, April 30, 2009
at 5:00 p.m.**

Joeten Motors reserves the right to reject any or all bids.



P.O. BOX 500680, SAIPAN, MP 96950

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Over the limit.
Under arrest.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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235- NEWS

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>



NMHC

NOTICE OF AUCTION

IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 003 D 16 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 16), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st day of March, 1971, as Document No. 869, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be \$87,000.00.

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, May 8, 2009**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c. To reject any and all bids.
3. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. **Deposit:** Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. **Change of Terms:** Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 2nd day of April, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director



NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

HOPE STRENGTH JOY



*"When I grow up,
I want to become
a police officer!"*



*"I want to meet
Winnie the Pooh!"*



*"My wish is to
go shopping!"*

90 wishes granted over 15 years of serving
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Saipan Tribune
 CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
 P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID IFB 09-012

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Purchase and Installation of a Pad Mounted Transformer at Tinian High School**. The Scope of Work is available beginning April 29, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope marked "IFB 09-012" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than 10:00 AM, May 27, 2009. Any bid submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

There will be pre-bid meeting at 10:00 AM, May 20, 2009 in the PSS CIP Office in the 2nd Floor of the Retirement Fund Building. Technical Questions may be submitted at any time before this meeting and through May 22, 2009. Technical questions may be submitted to David Loan CIP Coordinator by fax to 664.3715 or by e-mail to dfaloan@yahoo.com. Procedural questions may be submitted to Robert Florian, Procurement and Supply Officer by fax to 664.3791 or e-mail to florian@saipan.com.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
 P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID IFB 09-013

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Construction of 5 New Classrooms at Tinian Elementary School**. The Scope of Work is available beginning April 29, 2009 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. Call ahead for the price of these plans and specifications to 233.7678.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope marked "IFB 09-013" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than 11:00 AM, May 27, 2009. Any bid submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

There will be pre-bid meeting at 10:00 AM, May 19, 2009 in the PSS CIP Office in the 2nd Floor of the Retirement Fund Building. Technical Questions may be submitted at any time before this meeting and through May 22, 2009. Technical questions may be submitted to David Loan, CIP Coordinator by fax to 664.3715 or by e-mail to dfaloan@yahoo.com. Procedural questions may be submitted to Robert Florian, Procurement and Supply Officer by fax to 664.3791 or e-mail to florian@saipan.com.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Wade scores 33, Heat rebounds to beat Hawks



ATLANTA (AP)—Remember how bad Dwyane Wade and his Miami teammates looked in Game 1 of the playoffs? They were that good in Game 2. Wade scored 33 points, 13 straight to close the first half before he banked in a 3-pointer with 2 1/2 minutes left to finish off the Atlanta Hawks in a 108-93 victory Wednesday night that evened the series before it headed to south Florida.

After scoring only 19 points to open the best-of-seven series Sunday in a 90-64 blowout, Wade eclipsed his point total by halftime.

"He set the tone," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Before I came out to talk to the team, right before the game, there was some joking and laughing in the locker room and I heard him tell everybody to shut up and get their minds on the game."

The Hawks should have known this wouldn't be their night when "Spirit," an actual hawk that flies down from the rafters during the pre-game introductions, decided to hang around for the start of the game. The game had to be halted for a couple of minutes when the fierce-looking bird landed on the top of the backboard; he finally flew to his handler and was led out of the building.

Turns out, the real hawk showed more aggressiveness than any of the players wearing Hawks across the front of their jerseys until the fourth quarter, when Atlanta finally came to life.

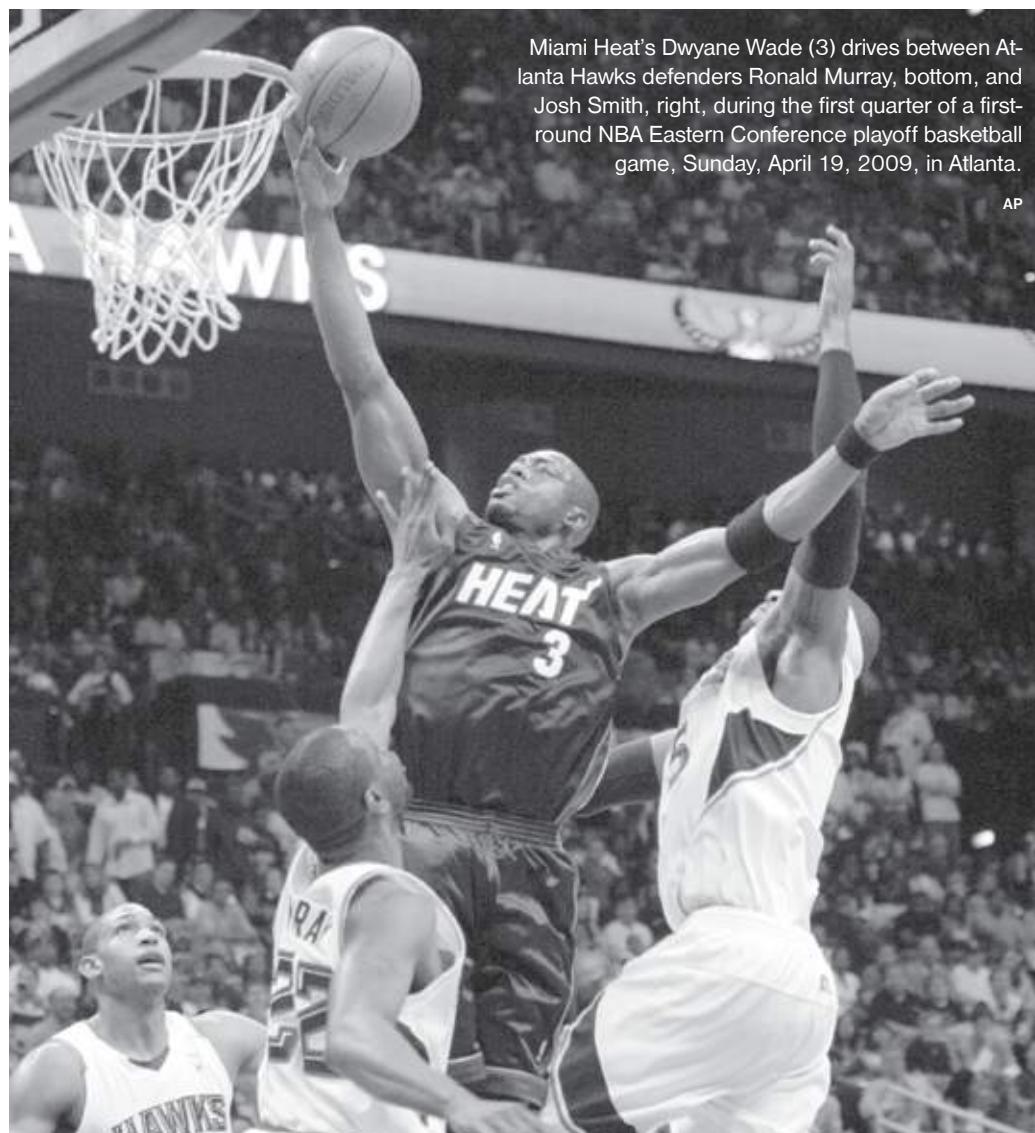
After trailing by as many as 18, the home team twice closed within five points—but never got over the hump. Wade delivered the decisive blow when, with the shot clock running down, he threw up a long 3. The shot was errant, but it banked in off the backboard and was just as good as a swish.

Wade's shot pushed the Heat to a 101-91 lead, and the Hawks were done.

The crowd started heading for the exits, except for a handful of Miami fans who hung around to serenade Wade with chants of "M-V-3!" When the horn sounded, Wade went over and shook hands with Atlanta rap star T.I., sitting at court-side as he waits to begin his yearlong sentence for weapons charges.

Unlike the loss in Game 1, when only one other Miami player scored in double figures, Wade had plenty of help this time. Daequan Cook scored 20 points, going 6-of-9 from 3-point range to make up for an 0-for-5 showing beyond the arc on Sunday night. Jermaine O'Neal scored 19 points, giving the Heat a presence on the inside. Michael Beasley added 12 and Udonis Haslem 10.

Mike Bibby led the Hawks with 18 points, but the home



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) drives between Atlanta Hawks defenders Ronald Murray, bottom, and Josh Smith, right, during the first quarter of a first-round NBA Eastern Conference playoff basketball game, Sunday, April 19, 2009, in Atlanta.

AP
Philadelphia 76ers to even the series at a game apiece.

Dwight Howard had 11 points and 10 rebounds but fouled out late, and Rashard Lewis made a pair of big jumpers in the final minutes to help Orlando get its fourth win in five chances against Philadelphia this season.

Andre Miller had 30 points, and Andre Iguodala scored 20 of his 21 points in the second half for the Sixers, who closed the gap to 5 points and almost erased the same deficit they faced in the series opener. Game 3 is Friday in Philadelphia.

Nuggets 108, Hornets 93

At Denver, Chauncey Billups scored 31 points to lead the Nuggets to another blowout of the Hornets.

The best-of-seven series shifts to New Orleans for Game 3 on Saturday night with the Nuggets holding just the third 2-0 edge in their 33-year NBA history.

This is the first time the Nuggets have won the first two games of a playoff series since 1985, when they took care of Utah in five games in the Western Conference semifinals.

Carmelo Anthony, quiet in Game 1 with just 13 points on 4-of-12 shooting, scored 22 points and dished out nine assists. J.R. Smith added 15 points.

NBA BRIEFS

Saunders inks deal to become new coach of Wizards

WASHINGTON (AP)—Flip Saunders officially has the job on the Washington Wizards' bench, complete with an \$18 million, four-year contract and the task of picking up the pieces from one of the worst seasons in franchise history. The Wizards said Wednesday that Saunders will be their new coach, confirming one of the worst-kept secrets of the NBA. Saunders and the Wizards reached an oral agreement more than a week ago, and the 54-year-old coach signed the deal Tuesday night. Saunders will be formally introduced at a news conference on Thursday. Saunders succeeds interim coach Ed Tapscott, who finished the season when Eddie Jordan was fired after a 1-10 start. Jordan led the Wizards to four straight playoff appearances, but long-term injuries to Gilbert Arenas and Brendan Haywood doomed the season from the start.

Davidson's Curry to announce NBA decision Thursday

DAVIDSON, N.C. (AP)—Davidson guard Stephen Curry will announce on Thursday if he'll return for his senior season or enter the NBA draft. The school has called a late-morning news conference at its athletic complex. Curry and his father, former NBA player Dell Curry, will attend along with Davidson coach Bob McKillop. Dell Curry and McKillop did not immediately return phone messages on Wednesday seeking comment. The 6-foot-3 Curry was the nation's top scorer last season, averaging 28.6 points a game.

Celtics lose Powe for rest of season with torn knee ligament

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)—Boston Celtics forward Leon Powe is out for the rest of the season with a torn knee ligament. The Celtics are already without Kevin Garnett as they try to defend their unprecedented 17th NBA title. The Celtics beat the Chicago Bulls 118-115 on Monday night to even their best-of-seven first-round series at one game apiece. Powe hurt himself on a spin move but stayed on the court three more minutes trying to play.

Along the way, they scored arguably their biggest victory in a decade when they won the draft lottery. With Rose running the show, the Bulls believe their cornerstone is in place for the next decade.

"I've got a lot of friends who are coaches," Hunter said. "I'm like, 'Man, you guys don't know how good he is. He doesn't even understand what he is yet.' ... I see him being that point guard that is going to push Deron Williams and Chris Paul to the limit."

Magic 96, 76ers 87

At Orlando, Fla., the Orlando Magic built a big lead and avoided another meltdown—barely.

Rookie Courtney Lee had 24 points, Hedo Turkoglu scored 16 and the Magic blew another 18-point lead before beating the

Bulls' Derrick Rose voted NBA rookie of the year

and that's winning basketball games, and that's what I respect about him."

The only other players who received first-place votes were Brook Lopez of the New Jersey Nets and Russell Westbrook of the Oklahoma City Thunder. Eric Gordon of the Los Angeles Clippers rounded out the top five.

A point guard from Chicago's South Side, Rose used his strength, blinding quickness and uncanny maturity to help turn around a team that went 33-49 last season.

Rose's approach, as much as his talent, also impressed veteran guard Lindsey Hunter.

"Not many guys can transfer it from here to there that fast," Hunter said, pointing from his head to the court. "But he's able to do that. I think that's what's so unique about him."

Rose was the Eastern Conference rookie of the month in November and December and again in March, helping the Bulls go 41-41 and reach the postseason for the fourth time in five years. In last Saturday's playoff opener against Boston, Rose matched Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's scoring record for a debuting rookie with 36 points and 11 assists in a 105-103 overtime victory.

Rose added 10 points, seven assists and six rebounds in a Game 2 loss.

"He can finish around the basket, and that's not easy for—he's not small, but he's not a big

guard," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "He's good at that, and that's impressive for a guy that size. His quickness to the basket is impressive."

The *Chicago Tribune* first reported that Rose had won the award.

Rose excelled from the start and never really slowed down, although he was at times benched late in games. That stopped after general manager John Paxson chatted with coach Vinny Del Negro, but whether he was playing in the closing moments or not, Rose never complained publicly.

"He plays both ends of the court, which is refreshing to see," Lakers star Kobe Bryant said. "A lot of young players don't play both ends. He works hard at it, defense as well."

Indiana coach Jim O'Brien even compared him to LeBron James.

"They're different positions, but LeBron James has the same thing—it's hard to knock him off his driving lane," O'Brien said. "And I think he's improved his outside shot. And I think he knows the game."

From the moment he returned to Chicago, Rose has fit with the Bulls. They won the draft lottery despite 1.7 percent odds and could have picked Michael Beasley, the high-scoring forward from Kansas State. Instead, they went with the guard who grew up a few miles from

Cabrera's 2nd homer helps Yankees top A's in 14th



NEW
YORK
(AP)—
Me 1k y

Cabrera ended a home run-filled opening homestand at the new Yankee Stadium with a two-run drive in the 14th inning Wednesday to give New York a 9-7 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

The Yankees overcame another shaky outing from CC Sabathia on a rainy afternoon that featured five more home runs. But after Oakland tied the score in the seventh, what had been a \$1.5 billion hitters' haven turned into a pitchers' park until Cabrera's drive off Dan Giese (0-2). Nick Swisher walked to start the inning.

Red Sox 10, Twins 1, 7 innings, 1st game Red Sox 7, Twins 3, 2nd game

At Boston, Brad Penny pitched six solid innings after Tim Wakefield won a rain-shortened complete game, and Boston Red Sox swept a doubleheader.

Wakefield (2-1) tossed a five-hitter for his second consecutive complete game in the opener, a victory that was called after seven innings because of rain. Kevin Youkilis, Nick Green and Mike Lowell each hit a two-run homer.

Royals 2, Indians 0

At Cleveland, Brian Bannister and two relievers outpitched reigning AL Cy Young Award winner Cliff Lee, and Kansas

City beat the Indians.

Lee (1-3) allowed two runs and nine hits over eight innings, but matched his loss total of last season. A year ago, the left-hander went 5-0 against the Royals on the way to a 22-3 record and 2.54 ERA.

White Sox 8, Orioles 2

At Baltimore, Jim Thome hit his 545th career homer to back a superb pitching performance by John Danks.

Danks (2-0) allowed one run, four hits and no walks in seven innings. The left-hander has given up only two runs in 19 innings this season, both on solo homers.

Blue Jays 8, Rangers 7, 11 innings

At Toronto, Kevin Millar singled home the winning run in the 11th inning over a drawn-in outfield for the Blue Jays.

Vernon Wells walked to begin the 11th and went to second on Travis Snider's sacrifice. Scott Rolen was walked intentionally and C.J. Wilson (0-2) was replaced by right-hander Darren O'Day, who was claimed on waivers from the New York Mets earlier in the day and arrived in Toronto at 9:45 p.m.

Tigers 12, Angels 10

At Anaheim, Calif., Curtis Granderson homered again, Brandon Inge also went deep and Detroit used a five-run seventh inning to beat the Angels.

Rays 9, Mariners 3

At Seattle, Carl Crawford had four hits and Evan Longoria had three to back the strong pitching of rookie Jeff Niemann, and Tampa Bay finally scored big without a home run.

Making his fifth career start, the 6-foot-9 Niemann (1-2) allowed just three hits and two earned runs before tiring noticeably and leaving with one out in the sixth. He didn't allow a hit until giving up a homer to Jose Lopez with none out in the fifth.

Pirates 7, Marlins 4

At Pittsburgh, Adam LaRoche had four hits and little brother Andy drove in a pair of runs, leading the Pittsburgh Pirates to victory over the Florida Marlins and a three-game sweep.

Florida began the series with an 11-1 record, a seven-game winning streak and a 6-0 road record, only to be outscored 18-6 while being swept in a three-game series by Pittsburgh for the first time since 2005.

Diamondbacks 2, Rockies 0

At Phoenix, Dan Haren pitched

seven sharp innings for his first win this season and Ryan Roberts' pinch-hit single broke a scoreless tie, leading Arizona over Colorado.

Haren and Jorge De La Rosa (0-2) matched shutout innings until the seventh, when Chris Young singled, went to second on Chris Snyder's single and scored on Roberts' single.

Giants 1, Padres 0, 10 innings

At San Francisco, Bengie Molina's pinch-hit double with two outs in the 10th inning drove in Andres Torres to give San Francisco a win over San Diego.

The attendance of 26,593 was San Francisco's smallest crowd since moving into AT&T Park in 2000.

Brewers 3, Phillies 1

At Philadelphia, Braden Looper pitched six scoreless innings, Mike Cameron hit a two-run double and Milwaukee beat Philadelphia.

J.J. Hardy had a solo homer for the Brewers, who snapped a six-game losing streak against the Phillies in the regular season. Philadelphia beat Milwaukee 3-1 in a first-round playoff series last fall.

Braves 1, Nationals 0

At Washington, Kelly Johnson drew a bases-loaded walk from Mike Hinckley in the ninth inning, lifting Atlanta over Washington.

The Braves won for the second time in seven games. The

Nationals, who took the first two games of the three-game series, dropped to 3-11—the worst record in the majors.

Reds 3, Cubs 0

At Chicago, Johnny Cueto pitched seven strong innings and Jay Bruce homered in the ninth to help Cincinnati beat Chicago.

Joey Votto had an RBI double in the eighth inning and Cueto also had two hits for the Reds, who ended the Cubs' three-game winning streak.

Astros 6, Dodgers 5

At Houston, Ivan Rodriguez hit a go-ahead single in the eighth inning for Houston after a wild pitch on an intentional walk by Los Angeles reliever Ronald Belisario put a runner on third.

Hunter Pence doubled with two outs and scored the decisive run after advancing to third during an intentional walk to pinch-hitter Geoff Blum. Lance Berkman tied it earlier in the inning with a solo homer off Belisario (0-1).

Cardinals 5, Mets 2

At St. Louis, Joel Pineiro carried a six-hitter into the ninth inning and Albert Pujols had two hits and two RBIs in St. Louis' victory over New York.

Joe Thurston and Skip Schumaker had an RBI apiece for the Cardinals, who will go for a three-game sweep Thursday. St. Louis has won nine of 12 since a 1-2 start.

Sanchez would carry huge price tag for Redskins

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—Dan Snyder has selected seven quarterbacks in his nine drafts as the owner of the Washington Redskins.

And he's still looking.

Having failed to land Jay Cutler in a trade, Snyder and the Redskins spent a couple of days last week entertaining Southern California's Mark Sanchez, the latest possible solution to a long-term quarterback vacuum that's existed in Washington since the early 1990s.

But Sanchez is a hot commodity, unlikely to be there when the Redskins are scheduled to be on the clock with the No. 13 overall pick in the NFL draft late Saturday afternoon. The well-guarded secret in the back offices—the biggest cause for suspense as the week goes along—is how much Snyder and Co. are willing to trade to move up to a top five spot, or even higher, to guarantee they can get a player they really want.

"I think anything is possible," executive vice president for football operations Vinny Cerrato said Wednesday. "It's just what you're willing to give up."

Not since Mark Rypien have the Redskins had a quarterback who kept the undisputed starting job for more than a couple of seasons.

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Adony is Fil-Taga April Ace champion

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Matutino Adony won the Fil-Taga Golf Association's April Ace of the Month Tournament last Sunday in a day the big guns faltered with their shot-making skills at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Adony triumphed with a net

Huwa widens gap in 8-ball tourney

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

D'Pirates Huwa widened its lead in the Obyan Division team standings by beating sister team 8-Ballers, 6-1, last Tuesday night in the 2009 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

After Jess Pangelinan's defeat in the first singles match of the night, Huwa took the next four singles and the two doubles and pulled away from the rest of the field with 41 wins and 22 losses.

Pangelinan dropped the first frame in his match against Ed Suzuki then hauled the 8-ball on the break in the second frame.

But Suzuki took the match by prevailing in the third frame.

Tero Takai, Ray Basa, Ray Takai, and Simeon Kapileo all won their singles matches before Gerald Guerrero and Tero Takai paired for the first doubles and won.

Kapileo and Basa also teamed up and won in the second doubles.

score of 64, two shots ahead of Mando Guban's net 66.

Guban finished with the day's third lowest gross of 83 but the 17-handicapper settled for second place behind Adony, whose 22 handicap lifted him to the top after coming home with a gross 86 in the par-72 18-hole tournament.

Matutino is best remembered for winning the October Ace of the month as a new comer in 2007 by virtue of a

club high 93 handicap.

He fired a net score of 61 at the same course in Talofofa.

Fr. Manny Corcueria submitted the lowest gross of 81 though the 12-handicapper was good only for third place with his net score of 69.

Also netting a 69 were fourth place John Matsumoto, a 21-handicapper who carded a gross of 90, and fifth place Jason Gadula, who came in with a gross 100.

Voyagers regained the lead at home by hammering out a 5-2 win over the visiting Snicker 8-Ball Knights.

Rolly Villanueva, R.J. Mascarinas, Roman Rodriguez, and Jojo Talibong triumphed in the singles for the Voyagers with only Luis Fajardo falling on the way side to the Knights' Rick Elepante.

Elepante also teamed up with Rodel Dela Cruz for his team's easy win in the first doubles before Talibong and Villanueva won over the pair of Larry Briones and Gerry Ruezo in the second doubles.

The Voyagers are now 38-18, a win ahead of the Docomo Hustlers (37-19).

Docomo nailed a lopsided 6-1 win on the road against host and cellar dweller Billy Bones Bad Boyz (14-42).

At Wild Bill's, the Billy Bones Home Boyz (32-24) won four of the five singles before dropping both their two doubles matches to score a 4-3 win over host Wild Wild West (19-30).

The 8-Ballers, composed of Suzuki, Perry Inos, Patrick Cepeda, Juan Camacho, and James Reyes fell to sixth place with 29-34.

The visiting USSP Fotten Palau recovered from a 1-2 deficit before coming home with a 5-2 lead against host BwiiBwi's Shark Attack.

Fotten Palau climbed to second place with 36-27 win-loss card and relegated Shark Attack to fourth with its 33-30 mark.

Running third is the Monte Carlo Perfect Spotters at 34-29 after rallying with a 4-3 decision at home against the visiting VFW Warriors.

The Warriors failed to sustain a 3-1 lead and stayed in the bottom with 20-43.

Also scoring a close 4-3 decision were BwiiBwi's Da Snipers over USSP Watever.

Da Snipers dropped their first match in the singles and won the next four and lost both doubles.

IT&E Voyagers regain lead in Atingan

In the Atingan Division, IT&E

"If these guys are committed to the workouts, I do not see any reason for them not to make the team. They will give us the much needed presence in the paint and increase our rebounding power," Aguon said.

Besides the three big men, Aguon has a pool of youth players who started training mid last year. They are Jayvan Tarkong, James Camacho, Joseph White, Jericho Cruz, Quincy Johnson, Joemary Tumaquip, Allen Moses, Marvin Rabauliman, Pete Iguel, and Keoni Chariton.

Johnson and Iguel are training for the Commonwealth

team for the first time, while the eight others had already suited up for the CNMI Junior Nationals in last year's Oceania Youth Tournament in Guam.

Ringo Reyes and Bill Babauta are also in the pool, but are doing their training separately from the rest of the group. Reyes is based on Tinian and did not play a single game for the Nationals during the Budweiser caging. Babauta is studying in Guam and played only in two playoff matches for the Nationals.

Aguon said the final lineup for the CNMI Nationals will be announced at the end of May.

pro, a clutch shooter, a role player that all teams desperately need.

Lamar Odom is one of the most versatile players in the game.

Phil Jackson knows NBA championships. Once again, he's got all the pieces to the puzzle. If he puts them together correctly, he will get an unprecedented tenth ring. Imagine having an NBA championship ring on all of your fingers. No other man in our solar system can do that.

To all Nugget fans, I'm sorry that I don't have confidence in your team even if I did have

Chauncey Billups on my fantasy team. The truth is, I don't see how any team in the West can stop the Laker juggernaut.

The Cavaliers are in a fateful cosmic collision with the Lakers. LeBron has taken a bunch of nobodies and elevated them into somebodies. Did Mike Williams really scare anybody before?

Without Garnett and now Leon Powe, the Celtics luck of the Irish has run out. The champs were primed to give the Cavs a fight. Now I don't see them getting past the Bulls, who will then exit in the second round.

Rene Batallones, who had the second lowest gross of 82, finished sixth with a net 70, same as seventh place Jhun Calma, who had a gross 86.

Ted Malaran was eighth with a gross of 92 for a net 71 and Dionysus Geva came in ninth with a gross 98 for a net 72.

Nono Bostre, who has the highest handicap of 32 among the 18 players in the field, tied for the day's highest gross of

104 for a net 72 in 10th place.

Rey Ferraz settled for 11th place with his gross 92 for a net 73.

Jess Yumul also came up with a net 73 at 12th place by finishing the day with a gross 95.

Fred Cataluna, the player with the lowest handicap of 10, managed a gross 85 for a net 75 at 13th position.

Gil Faller also came up with a net 75 for 14th spot after his gross of 90.

Three-time Fil-Taga Golfer of the Year Mike Cruz faltered this time with a gross 95 and the 20-handicapper stood at 15th place with a net 75.

Another big gun losing his touch was Nestor Siruelo, who had a gross 92 for a net 76 for 16th place.

Richard Meimban also shot the day's biggest gross of 104 and the 28-handicapper settled for 17th place with a net 76.

Jhun Ortiz, who won the 2009 February Ace tourney, also lost his form and finished last at 18th place with a net 78 following the 16-handicapper's gross 94.

Chong to face Robert in ROP 7: Fist of Fury

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Manny "The Enforcer" Chong will meet Ton "Peskadot" Robert in the main event in the upcoming Rites of Passage 7: Fist of Fury scheduled for May 23 at the Saipan World Resort.

This event is jointly sponsored by Docomo Pacific and Miller Lite with fighters from Guam, Japan, Philippines, Korea, and the CNMI to enter anew the octagon cage.

Chong is the current champion in the Pacific Xtreme Challenge heavyweight division.

Robert is a 285-lb behemoth. The semi main event will be between Spike 22 Guam's Jess "The Spiderman" Taitano and Saipan's "Taby" Jay Muna.

Taitano is ranked No. 7 in the world in the 125-lb division but Muna, who is known as a tough guy can potentially pull off an upset.

The superfight will be a

Guam vs. Saipan war with Spike 22 Justin "The Shock" Cruz taking on Mariana's Elite powerhouse Derick "El Peligro" Rangamar. Namauleg has a 2-0 record in MMA.

An exciting international matchup will be between Japan's Joji "Akuma" Matsunaga and Saipan's Skep Palacios from Team Zogai.

A not he Guam vs. Saipan encounter will be Troy "Destroyer" Munoz vs. Slade "The Rage" Adelbai.

Trench Tech president and promoter Justis "Cuki" Alvarez said there would be much more bouts including fighters from Korea and the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Trench Tech

HOPWOOD

From Page 36

fer Dela Cruz, Akioni Babauta, Ha'ann Fejeran, and Dionne Deleon Guerrero. Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan awarded trophies to the champion teams. Each team member also received balls and medals. The runners-up were also given trophies and medals.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB
11	5	.688	-
9	6	.600	1
9	6	.600	1 1/2
7	8	.467	3 1/2
6	9	.400	4 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	8	6	.571	-
Detroit	8	6	.571	-
Kansas City	8	6	.571	-
Minnesota	7	9	.438	2
Cleveland	5	10	.333	3 1/2

West Division

Seattle	9	6	.600	-
Texas	6	8	.429	2 1/2
Los Angeles	5	9	.357	3 1/2
Oakland	5	9	.357	3 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	11	4	.733	-
Atlanta	7	8	.467	4
Philadelphia	6	7	.462	4
New York	6	8	.429	4 1/2
Washington	3	11	.214	7 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	10	5	.667	-
Chicago	8	5	.615	1
Pittsburgh	9	6	.600	1
Cincinnati	8	6	.571	1 1/2
Houston	6	9	.400	4
Milwaukee	5	9	.357	4 1/2

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

Local Scores

Major League Standings

Local Scores

Major League Standings

E&E rules Gualo Rai caging



Members and supporters of champion team E&E and league organizers pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the 2009 Gualo Rai Friendship Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 E&E survived Miller Lite's fourth-quarter rally to eke out a 93-84 victory and sweep the title series in the 2009 Gualo Rai Friendship Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

A 9-0 windup in the last two minutes of the game allowed E&E to wrap up the series and foil Miller Lite's bid to force a Game 3. E&E won Game 1 of the best-of-three title showdown, 78-65, Monday night.

After Al Lansang's pull-up jumper tied the game for the

first time, 84-all, since the 2-2 tally in the first quarter, Ed Cosino, Dennis Morales, and Danny Bicera made timely baskets to halt Miller Lite's rally.

Cosino put E&E back into the lead when he attacked the defense of a foul-troubled Alex Lauron and made a layup, 86-84, with 1:54 left in the game.

Bicera and Mark Francisco then teamed up for a big defensive stop on the other end, harassing Lansang, who eventually lost the ball. Bicera picked up the loose ball and fed Morales for a fastbreak layup.

Miller Lite had another botched offensive play when it got the possession back and

E&E answered with a reverse layup from Bicera to up the lead to six, 90-84. E&E sealed the win in the last one minute of the game from the free throw line.

Morales led E&E's victory, scoring 27 points. He was later named Finals MVP and was also part of the Mythical Team. Joining Morales in the group were Francisco, Lauron, Jojo Garon, and Danny Dayrit.

Francisco fired 21 markers in the finals and won in the 3-point shootout contest. Bicera and Cosino added 17 and 12 points, respectively.

Lauron was the second highest scorer for Miller Lite in Game 2, making 22 markers. Lansang paced Miller Lite with 31 points,

while Garon chipped in 15.

Eric Dizon of E&E took the Coach of the Year Award, while AON won the Sportsmanship Trophy.

The inaugural staging of the Gualo Rai caging, which was supported by Pacific Trading Co., drew six teams. Included on the list were third placer Wushin, Genesis, and Blue Aces.

E&E 93 – Morales 29, Francisco 21, Bicera 17, Cosino 12, N. Dizon 6, Reyes 4, Nicdao 2, E. Dizon 2.

Miller Lite 84 – Lansang 31, Lauron 22, Garon 15, Sarmiento 10, Babauta 4, Obnimaga 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-20, 54-36, 73-63, 93-84.

Ol'Aces repeat over Aztecs

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

 Ol'Aces repeated their mastery over Aztecs, 12-7, Tuesday night and seized the solo lead in the Big League Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Juan Iguel went 3-for-3 with runs in the bottom of the third and sixth, as he pitched the Ol'Aces in six and a half innings, allowing seven hits, two walks, two hit by pitch, and seven runs.

Iguel struck out only three batters, but the Ol'Aces displayed a team effort in defense for their fifth win in seven starts.

Dane Lisua walked in his first at bat, but went 2-for-3 in his next plate appearances.

Lisua joined three other teammates with two runs, Iguel, Simon Napaiai, and Mike Borja

It was Ol'Aces' second victory over Team Aztecs this year following a similar 17-5 win in their first encounter last March 31.

The Aztecs failed to sustain a 3-0 lead in the top of the second

inning and suffered their fourth defeat in six outings.

John Wilson was perfect at bat for Team Aztecs, hitting 4-for-4 and scored three times.

Nick Muna also went 4-for-4 for the Aztecs with two runs.

Joe Aldan started for the Aztecs on the mound and was relieved by Nick Cruz in the bottom of the second after giving up four consecutive walks and allowing a run with one out.

With the bases loaded, Cruz allowed three hits and three runs before getting the third out.

Then in the bottom third, Ol'Aces exploded with six more runs for a 10-3 lead on the way to the win.

Cruz struck out four batters but gave up seven hits and walked two.

Ol'Aces' next assignment will be on May 5 against the Hustlers, whom they defeated in the first round, 11-1, last March 12.

On the other hand, the Aztecs will face the Tanapag Falcons on April 30.

The Falcons were running second with 4-2 win-loss mark before their game last night against the Hustlers.

Europeans commit to Xterra Saipan next year

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

 All European pro triathletes who competed in the 8th Annual Xterra Saipan Championship are raring to come back next year and vowed to bring along more of their mates from the Old World.

Uli Katzer of Austria and Sasha Wingerfeld of Germany said they will invite pros not only from their countries but also from the other parts of the European continent to take part in the crown jewel of the Xterra Global Tour in 2010.

Katzer and Wingerfeld are regular campaigners in the European series and other big triathlon events in the continent.

"Most of us do not know or hear about Saipan," Katzer said moments after finishing the race on Saturday.

He placed 8th overall with a time of two hours, 59 minutes, and one second in his first try on Saipan. He was fifth in the swim (19:03), 10th in the bike



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Germany's Sasha Wingerfeld leads Australia's Andrew Noble in the bike less than a kilometer away from Mt. Tapochao in last Saturday's 8th Annual Xterra Saipan Championship.

(1:39:56), and sixth in the run (58:25).

He said it was a good finish for him despite the searing heat.

"We know little about Saipan. After this experience I will definitely tell them to try [and come] here," said Katzer, who was invited by longtime friend Renata Bu-

69 to compete in CNMI Junior Championships

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association will be holding the singles competition in the 2009 CNMI Junior Tennis Championship this weekend on two venues, as the annual event has drawn 69 players.

Preliminary games today and tomorrow will be held simultaneously at the Pacific Islands Club and American Memorial Park tennis courts. Final matches will be played at AMP.

The boys' 14-and-under singles has the most entries with 20 players. The list includes Angelo and Rafael Jones, Clay McCullough-Stearns, Tommy Choi, Quintin Ramsey, Aaron and Jake Lee, Chris Cajigan, Kennedy Izuka, Chris and Daniel Park, Lucas Nutting, Christian Miller, Dylan Ackerman, Joel Hang, Amami Sakano, Andrew Johnson, John Cano, Seiya Eda, and Kevin Rhee.

Eight preliminary matches are scheduled for the boys' 14-and-under division today. The girls' 14-and-under singles tournament offers 1.5 times the regular ranking points, which will be crucial in selecting players who will suit up for the Commonwealth in the boys' and girls' 18-and-under and 14-and-under competitions in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam in June.

Arenovski, Melody Johnson, and Jean Bracken.

Seventeen players, including top seed Carl Dela Cruz, will contest the boys' 10-and-under division title. Others on the list are Michael Reon, Steven Goodwin, Michael Jones, Colin Ramsey, Clayton Izuka, Alex Park, Kui Lee, John Paul Tamayo, Geesu and Insyu Hohn, James Hourican, Tomo Hatamata, Moris Villanueva, Brian Lee, Felix Kim, and Jordan Butcher.

The girls' 10-and-under singles has 11 players in Tiffany Manlambayan, Liza Atalig, Emy Jones, Julia Ishikawa, Mimi Sakano, Ami Tsukagoshi, Malika Miyawaki, Tammy Ackerman, Riley Anne Buenaventura, Carol Lee, and Sakuya Imaya.

The girls' 18-and-under singles has the least participants with only Jodel Fernandez, Dina Jones, and siblings Theecel and Thea Minor playing in the weekend tournament.

Ji Hoon Heo leads the field in the boys' 18-and-under division and joining him are Benjie Decena, Nathan and Andy Nutting, Sung Hoon Ham, Bradley Brostrom, and Woo Suk Chang.

This weekend's singles tournament offers 1.5 times the regular ranking points, which will be crucial in selecting players who will suit up for the Commonwealth in the boys' and girls' 18-and-under and 14-and-under competitions in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam in June.

series is the hardest course in the Global Tour.

"The ocean swim is perfect. It's warm. I did a good job there. Somehow it needs more days, maybe one week, to adapt myself with the weather before the race," he said.

Wingerfeld, another first-time Saipan racer, is already excited to come back next year.

Barely unnoticed due to the presence of the other top pros, Wingerfeld's first stint on Saipan was memorable, as he finished third with a time of two hours, 43 minutes, and 26 seconds.

He finished strong in the swim, coming out of the Micro Beach waters with the third best time of 17:51, fourth in the bike (1:29:29), and third in the run (54:24).

"I will be coming back with some of my friends," he said.

The Xterra Saipan is part of the 2009 Saipan Sports Fest and is organized by Taga Inc. in association with the Marianas Visitors Authority. It is sponsored by DFS Galleria, Coca-Cola, Subway, IT&E, Glimpses of Saipan, Foremost, Docomo Pacific, MARPAC, and Northwest Airlines.



E&E rules Gualo Rai caging

E&E survived Miller Lite's fourth-quarter rally to eke out a 93-84 victory and sweep the title series in the 2009 Gualo Rai Friendship Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

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Wade scores 33, Heat rebounds to beat Hawks

Remember how bad Dwyane Wade and his Miami teammates looked in Game 1 of the playoffs?

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hopwood, Chacha top U14 league



Hopwood Junior High School, left, and Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, pose with their championship trophy after beating separate foes in the Inaugural NMIFA U14 Inter-scholastic Football League 2009 yesterday at the Hopwood field. Joining them are NMIFA president Jerry Tan, right back row, and NMIFA official Nick Swaim, left back row.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School and Chacha Oceanview Junior High School put their names in the CNMI soccer record books as the first champions of the NMIFA U14 Inter-scholastic Football League 2009 after beating separate foes in the finals yesterday at the Hilitais' home field.

Hopwood Junior High's boys team stunned the favored Saipan International School, 2-1, while Chacha prevailed against Hopwood's girls squad in a shootout, 4-3.

Interestingly, yesterday's victories were Hopwood and Chacha's firsts.



Hopwood lost three times to SIS, while Chacha suffered the same fate against Hopwood in the girls division.

June Litulimar and Andres Keo had one goal apiece for Hopwood, which had Tungel Hilbert as goalie. Other members of the team are Kimo Olopai, Edward Ogo, Francisco Lieto, David Muna, Harold Aranda, Gerry Gottwald, Mark Trinidad, Tim Olopai and Sam Park. Frankie Angel and Timothy Williams are the Hilitais' coaches.

In the girls' finals, Andrea Camacho drilled the winning goal for Chacha.

The game was tied at 1-1 after the regulation and re-

mained in a deadlock after the extension period. In the shootout, which had each team choosing five players attempting for goals, Chacha and Hopwood scored two goals apiece to send the game into a second shootout. In the second shootout, tournament rules state after a miss, the team to score next wins the match.

Jessmin Oscar stepped up to the penalty box first, made the kick, but Chacha goalie Bernie Sablan was there to deflect the ball. Camacho was up next for the kick and canned the goal to the left side of the post, as Hopwood goalie Jobie Pangelinan struggled for a save and failed.

Camacho ran to her teammates after scoring to celebrate. Joining the celebration were Chacha coaches

See HOPWOOD on Page 34



ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The CNMI Nationals have added two big men on their roster in preparation for their collision against towering frontliners from seven other teams participating in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament.

See CNMI on Page 34



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mel Manibusan, seen here going for a layup against IT&E's Pete Mendiola, during their playoff game in the Budweiser caging early this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, is training with the CNMI Nationals who will compete in the Oceania caging in June.

Beach Boys upset DCCA, advance to finals



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

The Beach Boys celebrate their 20-7 win over Department of Community and Cultural Affairs last Wednesday night.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Beach Boys finally broke the juggernaut of defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Wednesday night to advance to the finals of the 2009 Budweiser Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballpark.

B.J. Sablan and J.R. Suel powered the

Beach Boys to a 20-7 win that snapped DCCA's 21-game winning streak.

With one swing of the bat, Sablan hit a three-run homerun in the bottom of the sixth inning that capped a seven-run burst and the Beach Boys won via the 10-run rule.

It was Sablan's second homerun of the night. He made his first homerun in the bottom second then singled in the third and was out on a fly ball to left field in the fifth for a

3-for-4 stint.

J.R. Suel went 4-for-4 with three runs including a solo homerun in the bottom fourth. Other Beach Boys players soon joined the fray as they easily found their targets against DCCA's pitcher Mel Sakisat.

DCCA led 6-2 after one and a half innings before leadoff batter Sablan sparked the Beach Boys' seven-run explosion in the bottom of the second with his first homer of the night.

Ota Noboyuki also connected in three out of four plate appearances, contributing three runs and an RBI single.

Max Kadisang, Mel Aldan, Oliver Schermidal, and Jun Lalalila had two runs each, while Stan Aldan and Ricky George scored one each.

With the win, Beach Boys gained a twice-to-beat advantage and they could wrap-up the title with a win tonight against the victor of last night's loser's bracket game between DCCA and the winner of the Jets-Freedom Air encounter.

A win by DCCA could set up another showdown for the two teams but the defending champions must win twice over the Beach Boys to retain the crown.

Beach Boys remained perfect in the playoffs. They defeated P&S, 19-17, on April 14 and No Zone, 19-17, on April 20.



OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



No baloney allowed

Kobe vs. LeBron. That is what the world wants to see. And the world will probably get its way.

The potential for one player to impose his will is greater in basketball than any other team sport. Two reasons: 1) fewer players in the game 2) smaller playing dimensions.

Look at the past NBA champions and they were all led by indomitable stars.

Michael Jordan is exhibit 1A. Bird and Magic 1B. Dwyane Wade, Tim Duncan, Kevin Garnett. These guys are all larger than life. They are living the dream.

Does anyone believe that Ben Roethlisberger is the main reason Pittsburgh won the Super Bowl? Or that Chase Utley was the difference-maker for Philadelphia to win the World Series? Who on those teams is bigger than Kobe or LeBron? No one.

When the Cavs win, it's almost always because of LeBron. When the Lakers win, it's almost always because of Kobe.

The Lakers are much stronger than last season and getting stronger with the addition of Andrew Bynum for the playoffs. He will be slow coming off injury but should be in fine form by the Western

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